

**THE TIMES**  
1785-1985  
**Tomorrow**

**Heritage today...**  
... gone tomorrow? Part two of our series on the threat to stately homes

**Kremlin gremlins**  
Russia's formidable problems on her way to computer literacy

**Poolside cool**  
The latest swimwear fashion for the smartest wet looks

**Crack the ENIGMA**  
First clue in Computer Horizon starts an exciting spy trail

## Portfolio

The weekly Times Portfolio prize (£40,000 last week because no one won the week before) has been shared by two readers, Mr William Walshe, of Tisbury, Wiltshire, and Mr Geoffrey Evans, of Tynard, Paulton, Cornwall, each receives £20,000. Saturday's daily £2,000 prize was shared, also, Mr Eric Laycock, of Sunderland, and Mr Peter Dineen, of Bexhill-on-Sea, each received £1,000.

There is another £2,000 daily prize to be won today; prices 24; rules and how to play, information service, back page.

## Solidarity delighted by Howe

Solidarity activists expressed satisfaction at the visit to Warsaw by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary. He laid flowers at the grave of the murdered priest, Father Popieluszko, a gesture that delighted the dissidents. But the Polish Government remained sanguine, prepared in advance for controversy on human rights.

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Leading article, page 15  
New pattern, page 14

## EEC accord

European Community finance ministers meeting in Palermo ended informal talks optimistic about prospects for developing Europe's monetary system. They have agreed on additional measures for streamlining it.

## Arab suspects

Spanish police have focused on Arab groups in their search for the bombers who killed 18 people in a restaurant near Madrid.

## Noele Gordon

The actress Noele Gordon, who played Meg Mortimer in the television serial *Crossroads* for 18 years, has died in Birmingham of cancer. She was 61.

## Miners afraid

The National Coal Board is still paying hotel bills for mining families frightened from their homes by intimidation during the pit strike.

## Peru poll alert

Troops on full alert stood guard at polling centres all over Peru as millions voted for a president and national congress.

## Lendl's title

Ivan Lendl won the World Championship Tennis title in Dallas by beating Tim Mayotte in straight sets in the final.

## SPECIAL REPORT

Disabled workers are out to prove that they can be just as valuable as anybody else - and the Prince of Wales has backed their efforts. A four-page Special Report.

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Letters: On poll tax, from Mr A. R. Isserlis; doubt and faith, from the Rev G. W. F. Lang, and Canon G. Austin; Green Belt, from Mr R. W. G. Smith

Leading article: How in Eastern Europe

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The realities behind Labour's new popularity; How's East European tour achievements; stately homes under threat; the bride from Belsen

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# 'I want the confidence, trust and unity of the membership'

## New TGWU ballot supported by left-wing victor

● Mr Ron Todd, general secretary-elect of the Transport and General Workers' Union, indicated he would accept a re-run election for the post, after allegations of ballot-rigging

● Union officials said there would be no new election unless the charges are proved later this week

● Mr George Wright, rival candidate for the post, is said to have compiled a large dossier of allegations, which he will present only if a new poll is refused

● The original ballot had been presented by TUC leaders as a shining example of fair union elections (page 2)

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The biggest scandal in trade union politics for years looked today almost certain to end in a re-run of the election for the general secretaryship of the 1.5 million-strong Transport and General Workers' Union.

Mr Ron Todd, left-wing general secretary-elect, indicated last night that he would be prepared to face a fresh ballot. He had a narrow victory over his moderate rival Mr George Wright, the union's Welsh secretary.

His move came on the eve of the Scottish Trades Union Congress, at a hastily arranged press conference during which Mr Todd was ill at ease with his questioners. But union officials insisted that there would be no new election unless charges of "ballot rigging" were substantiated this week.

Mr Wright is to present evidence of "irregularities" in the election process last May to the union's general secretary, Mr Moss Evans, on Thursday.

If Mr Evans believes there is sufficient evidence, he will bring it to the notice of the union executive, which could order a new poll.

Mr Todd, aged 57, the national industrial organizer and chief negotiator with the Ford motor company for many years, has refused for several years to talk about his involvement in the poll.

But Mr Todd broke his silence last night and said: "When the executive do meet, I will make it clear my personal view is that I would support a new election because of the arguments. I want the confidence, trust and unity of the membership."

He blamed media speculation for the internal crisis within the union, adding: "But once people start to throw mud it sticks, even on the innocent."

The great problems facing the union and members required unity and even if a new ballot made clear that he was still the victor, "I personally would not be against a new ballot."

The executive council is not due to meet until June, but in the light of what the general secretary has described as the biggest crisis since its formation in 1922, it is certain that its leaders will meet very soon.

Mr Evans has agreed to meet Mr Wright on Thursday to consider the new evidence that he is said to be putting forward about corruption in last year's poll. Mr Evans has not committed himself to a rerun of the ballot, but he has not ruled it out.

Last night's strong hint from Mr Todd that he would welcome another ballot "to clear the air" could prod the union into another election.

Mr Todd is due to take over the reins of Britain's biggest union in 10 weeks. If the clamour for a new election is successful it is probable that the TGWU will have to soldier on under Mr Moss Evans or choose a caretaker leader.

The union's leaders are considering the prospects for a new poll. What is not certain is whether it would be confined to the five candidates who stood last year, or be open to any one to stand.

One candidate, Mrs Marie Patterson, then the national women's officer, has retired. Her respectable vote, in excess of 40,000, might be reasonably expected to swing behind Mr Wright.

But there would be a very strong campaign from the left to ensure that Mr Todd retained the position.

After Thursday's "summit" between Mr Evans and Mr Wright, there will be some very straight talking, Mr Wright has been challenged to "put up or shut up" and the view among critics in the highest circles of the union is that his demand for a new ballot will fail.

However, it was admitted that the argument over the next leader might be resolved by the courts rather than the union's procedures.

Ballot open to abuse, page 2

## Wright 'has fresh list' of vote rigging allegations for Evans

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Mr George Wright, the unsuccessful contender for the general secretaryship of the transport workers union, has compiled a "whole sheaf of fresh allegations" about the leadership ballot, according to his supporters.

The dossier was due to be presented to Mr Moss Evans, current general secretary on Thursday, after Mr Wright had called last week for a re-run of the election in which he was defeated by Mr Ron Todd, a left-winger.

One source said Mr Wright has accumulated allegations about ballot rigging which were twice as many again as those already published. But it is highly unlikely now that Mr Wright will seek to publicize other alleged irregularities to add to accusations about the elections in Northern Ireland and in Bristol, where two officials were dismissed after an inquiry.

Other complaints have been received from London and Merseyside. The Fraud Squad has complained that it has encountered a "wall of silence" from officials in a Bristol local government branch.

Mr Wright has argued privately that Mr Evans should order a fresh vote to stem mounting complaints. His dossier will be quietly filed away if there is a new election.

His supporters say the allegations tend to grave misgivings about the conduct of the elections.

"It's so easy to open the boxes and take papers out and very easy for ballot papers to be filled in and stamped," said one source.

## Timetable of events

November 28 1983: Mr Moss Evans resigns as General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union.

February 24 1984: Nominations close - candidates are Mr Ron Todd, national officers at Transport House; Mr George Wright, union secretary in Wales; Mr Mick Martin, secretary of the Public Services group; Mr Tod Sullivan, secretary of the white collar section; Mrs Marie Patterson, women's officer; Mr George Henderson, construction workers secretary.

March 6 1984: Mr Martin withdraws and pledges support for Mr Todd.

April 2 1984: Mr Wright, favourite of moderates, claims twice as many branch nominations as all other candidates combined.

April 5 1984: Mr Wright claims that nominations of support from about 100 branches have "gone adrift".

April 30 1984: Voting starts.

June 28 1984: Mr Todd declared winner.

January 13 1985: Union confirms allegations of ballot rigging; three officers of the local government branch in Bristol lose office.

March 10 1985: More complaints of irregularities from Liverpool; Fraud squad detectives inquire into Bristol claims.

April 1 1985: Union responds to ballot investigation as complaints come from London, Belfast, Kent and Merseyside.

April 14 1985: Mr Todd says he is prepared to face a fresh ballot.

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Above, Mr Ron Todd, aged 56, the victor in last year's elections, and currently chief union negotiator for the motor industry. He was supported by the board left and believed it was partly his function to act as a servant of the national executive.



Right, Mr George Wright, aged 46, regional secretary for Wales and former secretary of the Wales TUC, who came a close second to Mr Todd. Suspected by the hard left as a covert "right winger", he eschews the title "moderate" and puts himself in the Labour Party.

## Hope fades for leader of Brazil

From Patrick Knight, São Paulo

The condition of Brazil's president-elect, Senhor Tancredino Neves, aged 75, deteriorated sharply yesterday afternoon. In the evening a spokesman said the situation was virtually irreversible.

The spokesman denied one report that he had gone into a coma, but said doctors had exhausted all cures.

Senhor Neves was placed on a kidney dialysis machine on Friday in a last effort to save his life after seven operations in 28 days, but after 48 hours of stability his lungs, kidney and heart began to fail yesterday.

His family started to arrive at his bedside during the afternoon, and São Paulo police asked people not to converge on the hospital. Police are at the hospital in force and the area near the main entrance is closed to the public.

Politicians appealed on the radio for calm, and one said that opportunists should not take advantage of the situation. Another said the nation was on its knees praying for a miracle.

The acting president, Vice-president Jose Sarney, is in Brasilia, having postponed a weekend trip to the north-east of the country, where 400,000 people are homeless following a severe flood.

Prayers were said for Senhor Neves' recovery yesterday at a mass meeting of many of São Paulo's 300,000 striking metalworkers.

## EEC doubt about US money talks

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

The United States faces a lukewarm reception from leading industrial governments for its offer on Friday to hold a high-level meeting on international monetary reform.

It is to be repeated by the new Treasury Secretary, Mr James Baker, to finance ministers gathering in Washington this week for the spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

However, EEC finance ministers meeting in Palermo at the weekend expressed doubts about whether Washington was seriously prepared to consider reform, although they welcomed the principle of such talks.

The British Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, is also known to believe that the issue of reform should be handled under existing arrangements. A special study by the "Group of Ten" leading industrial countries is due to reach preliminary conclusions in time for the Bonn economic summit at the beginning of next month, and to be discussed at regular meetings of finance ministers in June and September.

However, the French Government is still insisting that monetary reform should be in parallel with a new international trade round, and blocked final agreement on the starting date for a new round at last week's trade talks in Paris.

Comment, page 21

## Shamir vetoes Weizman mission



## Frightened miners and families live in hotels at coal board's expense

From Peter Davenport, Sheffield

Miners and their families frightened from their homes by intimidation during the coal strike are still living in an hotel at the expense of the National Coal Board.

They are still too afraid to move back to the houses they abandoned in a south Yorkshire pit village and their exile has so far cost the board about £9,000.

Three miners, all with their wives and two with young children, have been living in an hotel in Sheffield for almost three months.

Two of the men, miners in their 50s with at least 30 years each in the industry, have been trying to obtain redundancy to enable them to start new lives. Unhappy with their day-to-day existence they have complained of "betrayal" by the board.

Leaders of the National Working Miners Committee, formed to represent men who defied the pickets during the strike and which is still fighting their cause, are to press the board this week to grant the men redundancy terms.

Mr Tony Ellis, vice-chairman of the organization, said: "Three weeks ago we had a meeting with Mr Michael Eaton, the coal board spokes-

man, and we were told there would be no problems about obtaining redundancy for the two men. Then when they went to see their colliery manager they were told there was no chance of getting it.

"They feel let down and betrayed. They are however, decent men whose lives have been turned upside down."

The men have all put their houses up for sale in the village where they now feel outcasts and the National Working Miners Committee were so confident that they were about to win redundancy terms they put down £250 deposits on new houses away from the coalfield.

The men would have used their cash to pay for their new homes until their other houses could be sold, but now the deals look like collapsing.

The men went back to work last November.

Since they moved into the hotel the bills of about £250 for each family have been paid by the board.

A NCB spokesman said "We will keep them there until things settle down sufficiently for them to return to their normal existence."

Mr Ian Macgregor, the NCB

chairman has pledged his management's "absolute resolve" in tackling what he termed "the distressing problem of intimidation" in the mining industry. He said that only "one tenth of 1 per cent" of the workforce was guilty of intimidation.

Mr Macgregor said: "Throughout the NUM's strike, I gave an assurance that we would safeguard the interests of working miners. Our management will not tolerate any intimidation of individual workers or groups of employees."

"Because of firm action already taken and the good sense of the overwhelming majority of miners, reported incidents of intimidation have been very few and they are getting less."

Two men are to appear before magistrates in Rotherham today in connection with an alleged attack on the home of a strike-breaking miner Mr Keith Mettam and his family in the village of Thurncroft near-by.

Mr Mettam, aged 37, will himself appear before Rotherham magistrates today accused of threatening to commit damage to a neighbour's house.

Mr Ian Macgregor, the NCB

## Burden of social worker's job

By Tony Samstag

As Brent Council, in north London, prepared for the opening today of its inquiry into how Jasmin Beckford, aged four, died while in its care, a social worker spoke of the "relentless grind" generated by the workload she feels obliged to carry.

Ms Margot Nortcliffe, aged 47, is senior practitioner on a specialist team dealing with cases involving children for Wandsworth, south London. At any one time she is actively involved with about 15 families.

All are time-consuming, though not necessarily at once. Contrary to one view of her profession, Ms Nortcliffe estimates that she spends far more than half her time in "face to face" work with clients.

"Face to face" means talking for an hour or more at a time.

On a typical morning recently Ms Nortcliffe arrived in her office as usual about 9am. For the next hour she checked her post and in-tray, made several telephone calls to confirm appointments with clients and several more to doctors, teachers and others involved with clients, and tried to write up a case report or two.

At 10.30 she had to miss a monthly meeting at which requests by parents for children's day-care are discussed - such meetings normally last for an hour or two - because two members of a family had urgently asked to see her.

From midday until 1.15 she was back at the office doing much the same thing she had done first thing in the morning.

She had no lunch, and left the office at 1.15 for an appointment with another client, a woman, whom she left at 2.30 in order to visit a child and discuss its progress under circumstances she refuses to describe. That visit lasted until 5pm and involved a fair amount of travelling.

Until 6.15pm, Ms Nortcliffe visited a foster parent to discuss the progress of a child in her care. Then she drove home, about 15 minutes.

Her working week is officially 35 hours; she is not paid overtime, and estimates hours worked at more than 40 and occasionally 50. The pay at senior grade of practitioner in London is about £12,000, lower in the provinces.

In addition to what used to be known as "case load", an expression the social workers are trying to discourage as implying an artificial distinction between face-to-face work and the behind-the-scenes work required to support it, Ms Nortcliffe is responsible for the supervision of five private nurseries, which she tries to visit at least quarterly.



Non-stop: Ms Margot Nortcliffe. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia.)

An unannounced drop-in visit about an hour, will involve checks on equipment, staffing, facilities, the progress of problems of the children themselves and will, of course, generate still more paperwork.

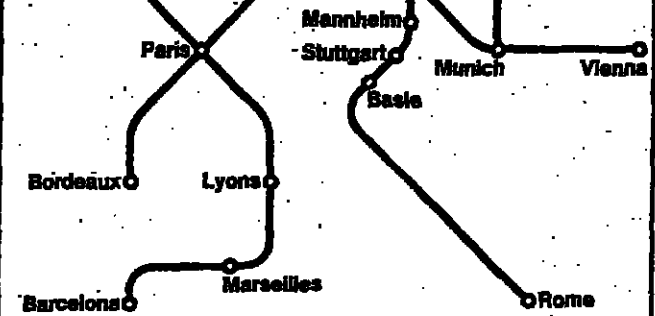
There are also "duty shifts" at the community social services centre, monthly meetings of about 90 minutes with her area officer (in effect, her chief), and full case meetings for each "in care" family every three to six months. Doctors, teachers and other professionals involved with the family are asked to attend. It is up to Ms Nortcliffe to organize those meetings of notoriously elusive, busy men and women.

Sometimes she also finds time to sit on an adoption fostering panel and support group.

Ms Nortcliffe is fully aware of the pressure she is under, not only in terms of workload but in terms of the knowledge that a mistake can mean the death of a child.

She describes the job as "very lonely" and says: "Even after 16 years of social work, I occasionally find myself knocking at a door and my heart stops and I start sweating. The pressure keeps up week-in and week-out. You have to be vigilant and remind yourself of the professional aspect of what you are doing."

Inevitably, sometimes it has to give. "I do have a bit of a reputation for missing certain meetings," Ms Nortcliffe says, demurely.



## How TGWU chooses leader

### Ballot system open to vote rigging

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

The ballot to elect a new general secretary of Transport and General Workers' Union, which now looks as if it will be re-run after vote-rigging allegations, was seen by TUC leaders as a paragon of workplace elections.

The poll was used by leaders of the labour movement last summer as a central plank in their successful argument against government attempts to introduce legally enforceable postal ballots.

About 61 per cent of the 1.6 million ballot papers sent out by the union were unused, giving a turnout of 39 per cent.

Mr Ron Todd, the left-wing victor in the poll who is backing calls for a re-run, received 273,662 votes; 43.4 per cent of those cast and 16.9 per cent of the total possible. The runner-up, Mr George Wright, who last week called for a fresh poll, won 228,662 votes; 36.3 per cent of the votes cast and 14.1 per cent of the total possible. Three other candidates won a total equivalent to 18.3 per cent of the membership.

There is little doubt that the voting system could be open to massive abuse if officials were so-minded.

The Voting System

Workplace balloting of the kind practised by the union depends fundamentally on the integrity of union officials. These are the key elements of the process.

A specific number of ballot papers and cardboard boxes are posted or delivered to each region of the union, according to its membership. The region then distributes the material to district offices, which in turn ensure that each branch is supplied.

Branches have about 170 members on average. They are

organized both on area and workplace.

It is then up to branch officials to provide a convenient time and a place for members to vote and to ensure that they are all aware of the details. Two scrutineers are elected at branch meetings.

A few branches wrote to their members individually during the last election, but most relied on posters, branch meetings and the union's newspaper to give the information.

When a member turns up to vote, normally at the branch office but sometimes at a branch meeting, he is given a ballot paper on production of his union card which is then stamped.

It is then up to officials to provide a place where the ballot form can be completed in privacy. The ballot paper is then placed by the member into the box provided by Transport House, the union's headquarters.

When the voting period, normally decided by the branch, is over, the box is sealed with tapes provided and is sent by registered post to the divisional office or collected by its officials. Then the boxes go to the regional offices where under rule, they are kept in secure rooms until counting begins.

Finally the count for each region is sent to the returning officer at national headquarters, in this case Mr Moss Evans, the present TGWU general secretary.

If the election is re-run it is unlikely that it will be a postal ballot, but much greater safeguards will have to be taken to avoid fresh complaints.

The complaints

Allegations were proven at a local government branch in Bristol and two officials were

dismissed. Members complained during a union inquiry that their cards had been stamped GS, indicating that they had voted when they had not, and that voting returns for Mr Wright had been torn up in front of officials. The union is holding a further inquiry this week into another branch in Bristol.

There has also been suspicion over particularly high voting figures in Northern Ireland. According to a BBC Television Newsnight poll, at three branches of the union in Belfast only 32 per cent of the workers questioned said they had voted. According to union figures 66.6 per cent of its Irish members voted, with 78 per cent backing Mr Todd. Irish members have denied an opportunity to vote.

Mr Evans has said that a preliminary report by area officials casts doubt on the finding of the Newsnight researchers. He is to receive a fuller report from Mr John Freeman, the regional secretary for Ireland.

Complaints from other areas have been received, many of which will be detailed in the dossier which Mr Wright will give Mr Evans on Thursday.

The union

The TGWU has more than 1.6 million members and is the largest affiliate to the TUC. It has been left-led in recent years, a tradition Mr Todd hopes to follow, while Mr Wright favours pragmatism.

It has 14 trade groups covering lorry drivers to lawyers. These are: docks and waterways; passenger services (buses); road transport (lorry drivers); civil air transport (airport loaders, etc); public services (local authority manual workers, industrial civil ser-

## Rate issues at heart of council elections

By Hugh Clayton  
Local Government Correspondent

Rates will be at the heart of next month's county council elections in England and Wales, with all parties claiming to offer better value than the others. But the rates picture is not clear-cut in many counties, and the elections are being held at the start of a long Government effort to reform the rating system.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, believes that the present set-up offers "a pretty confusing signal for local electors". That is because the amount paid by a household or business depends on an independent and outdated valuation as well as the political decision of a council.

That is why a household ratepayer in Conservative-led Surrey will pay more than £7 a week to the county council this year while a household in Labour-led Cumbria will pay less than £4. The difference is accounted for largely by property valuations.

Most Labour councils which have delayed setting a rate have asked ratepayers to continue paying at last year's level. That is meant to avoid prejudicing their claim for concessions from ministers. Greenwich, in south-east London, is the only one to send out standing order forms with a suggested payment at the low level demanded by the Government under the rate-capping law.

Mr David Pictou, Labour deputy leader in Greenwich, said that the move did not mark a "tactical surrender" to ministers. The council did not want to push up rates, but to win more grant from ministers.

"There is, and always has been, provision for supplementary rate support grant," Mr Pictou said. "I think the supplementary rate support grant is a device they may be forced to use."

## Whitehall's cash curbs 'wasteful'

By Our Local Government Correspondent

Local government staff often do not understand Whitehall's controls on capital spending which they operate, the Audit Commission says today. Millions of pounds are also wasted as councils try to beat spending curbs.

The two-year-old quango, has already offended ministers. "The current very complex arrangements inevitably result in weak local accountability without delivering the desired controls," the report says.

Its chief executive Mr John Banham said: "We are not asking for any changes in Government macroeconomic policy. There is room inside the present framework to make the system more simple and effective and less wasteful and frustrating."

Capital Expenditure Stationery Office, £4.60

## Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

As Parliament resumes today it is evident that an era in British politics is over. For three years the Conservatives have dominated the political scene to an extraordinary extent. From the beginning of the Falklands conflict to the end of the miners' strike it has seemed inconceivable that anybody else could form the government.

The general election of 1983 must rank as one of the most one-sided contests this century. There was never the slightest doubt as to who would win. Since then many politicians of all parties have been speaking privately as if they did not have much doubt about the next election either. Mrs Thatcher was seen as an unstoppable political force.

Now all that has changed. The opinion polls show Labour ahead, Mr Scargill no longer looks such a threat to the country nor such a menace to Mr Kinnock, and the Conservatives have been suffering their embarrassments.

None of this means that Mrs Kinnock can start to measure the curbs in Downing Street. The Conservatives are not bound to lose next time. The new political era is in a sense simply a return to normality, with the next election an open contest. It could produce another Conservative victory, a Labour government or a hung Parliament.

## Party is still deeply divided

The conclusions follow from this new uncertainty. The possibility of power shared encourages a greater measure of discipline within the Labour ranks. The party is, in fact, still as deeply divided as ever. But while there has been no reconciliation with the hard left, there is a better chance either of diminishing its power or at least of appearing to do so.

Those on the practical left know that if Labour is to win the next election the party will have to move towards the centre and behind the leadership. So long as victory seemed a remote chance, there was not much incentive for them to curb their natural inclinations. But some of them have begun to distance themselves from the far left already, and more can be expected to do so if the party's prospects continue to improve. Despite the splits, Labour may therefore come to look rather more presentable to the country.

The more uncertain the outcome of the next election seems, the more the party battle is likely to intensify. For some time most Labour politicians have found their energies absorbed by the struggle for power within the party. That has been for real, whereas the attempt to weaken Mrs Thatcher's hold on power has seemed such a hopeless aspiration.

This partly explains why the opposition to the Government has been so feeble. Now there should be at least a greater degree of confidence in their attacks. Mrs Thatcher should no longer find it so easy to trounce her opponents by the force of her personality.

The difference in her position is the third conclusion to be drawn from the change in the political climate. For the past three years her personal dominance has been even more remarkable than that of the Government. She has avowed her supporters and opponents alike.

## Human frailties being noticed

But now her human frailties are being noticed. That is the significance of her Fox Eastern tour. What she said about the miners' strike was accurate. It is also true that she needed to dispel the impression that Britain was in thrall to irresponsible union power.

Yet, not for the first time, it would have been better if she had not expressed herself quite so like that. I suspect that she is now more likely to be penalized as infelicitous for these occasional outbursts, and that her supporters will expect her to be a bit more careful.

Her gaffe over Malaysia and Indonesia was understandable, if unfortunate. Anybody who cannot recall ever having committed that sort of blunder is probably suffering from an even worse memory than the rest of us.

But the incident drew attention to her habit of trusting too much to her remarkable stamina. Tired Prime Ministers can make worse mistakes than this.

Her strength and determination remain great political assets. But for both personal and political reasons she needs to share the load a bit more. Otherwise there could be a reaction against her style of leadership in the new political era.

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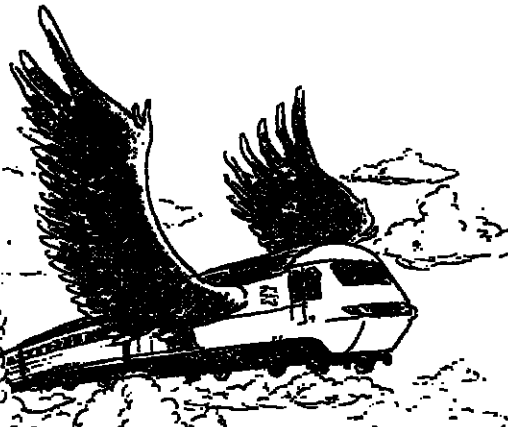


## On the right lines.

The first 100 mph newspaper train runs from Euston on Saturday night to Scotland carrying Scottish supplies of The Sunday Times, The Observer and Sunday Telegraph.

British Rail InterCity in fact runs more trains at, or over, 100 mph than any other country in the world.

The InterCity 125 high-speed trains operate in almost half of InterCity services, and the Flying Scotsman now covers the 400 miles between London and Edinburgh in only 4½ hours (a journey that in 1933 trains used to take 8¼ hours to do).



## Money from 'Underneath the Arches'.

British Rail's Property Board are turning 100-year-old railway arches into modern centres for small businesses.

They will be spending £2 million a year converting and restoring some of the 15,000 arches—half of them in London—into suitable accommodation.

It will not only increase BR's rental income, but breathe new life into run-down inner-city areas.

## BR expands services to businessmen.

Not only do BR offer faster timings making city-to-city centre journeys competitive with many airline times, they're offering the businessman much more too.



£2 million is being invested in refurbishing 400 InterCity carriages which will feature improved seating with telephones, luxury Wilton carpeting and easier-on-the-eye décor.

## Car service while you travel by train.

The first of a network of car servicing and valeting outlets has been opened at Rayleigh in Essex at the British Rail car park.

Travellers are able to leave their cars from 6.30 in the morning and collect them with the service work done when they get back to the station in the evening.

The 'Serviceman' service, in association with British Rail, is operated on a franchise basis. It is primarily aimed at the commuter but should attract a much wider spread of car users.



We're getting there.

# Search focuses on Arabs after 18 die in Madrid terror bombing

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Spanish police concentrated on Iranian refugees and Arab student groups yesterday in the search for terrorists responsible for the restaurant blast which killed 18 people and injured 82.

The Interior Minister Señor José Barrionuevo, confirmed that a pro-Khomeini Muslim fundamentalist organization, Islamic Jihad (Holy War), is suspected of the attack.

The explosion occurred about 10.35pm on Friday, when 200 customers filled the El Descanso restaurant, outside Madrid, which was popular with US airmen and their families stationed at the nearby Torrejon base.

When the bomb went off, the three-storey building collapsed. All the dead were Spaniards, but 14 of the 82 injured were members of the US Air Force, or their families, or American civilian employees at the base.

Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility in a telephone call to Reuters in Beirut. The caller said the attack was in retaliation for a Beirut car-bomb which killed 92 people.

American military personnel were apparently the target of the bombing, since the Shia group is basically anti-American and links the US closely with Israel.

The attack came less than a month before President Reagan's first visit here, and soon after tens of thousands of Spaniards marched past the restaurant on their way to Torrejon in a demonstration

against Nato and the US military in Spain.

The bombing was not Jihad's first action in Spain, but was far its most violent. It was also the most brutal incident of political extremism, in terms of loss of life, since the end of the civil war in 1939.

Thousands of Iranians, at least nominally opposed to the Khomeini regime, live in Spain. Hundreds of Arab students are at Spanish universities, particularly in Madrid and Barcelona.

The Interior Ministry waited almost a day before confirming witnesses' assertions that there was a bomb which collapsed the building. The delay, Señor Barrionuevo said, was to rule out theories that the cause was cooking gas, or fumes from underground fuel tanks.

Police blamed Jihad for a machine gun attack on a Kuwaiti newspaper publisher in Marbella in August. The intended victim escaped unharm, but his chauffeur was killed.

In September, a Libyan Embassy employee, Mr Mohammed al-Dris, was shot and seriously wounded in Madrid. Later Jihad briefly held the Spanish Ambassador in Beirut, in an attempt to force Madrid to free two arrested suspects.

On September 14, Jihad struck a second time in Marbella, killing a Saudi Arabian engineer and wounding another Saudi.

## Blast rocks magazine offices in Paris

Paris (AFP) — A bomb damaged the offices of an extreme right-wing magazine here early yesterday, while an explosion knocked out a transformer and high-tension wires feeding France's main aerospace complex near the southern city of Toulouse.

No one was injured in either attack. Responsibility for the Paris blast was claimed by Action Directe, the left-wing extremist group which also said it was the author of the Paris bombings 24 hours earlier at the Israeli Bank Leumi and the national immigration office.

The Toulouse explosion caused only a moment's interruption at Aerospatiale, whose factories have built Concorde, the Exocet missile and the Ariane rocket.

The bomb was set near the village of Colombiers, where the right-wing National Front was holding a ball.

LOGRANO: A bomb blast yesterday in a French bank in this northern Spanish town damaged windows and a door, and one man was slightly hurt. Police suspected Basque separatist guerrillas (Reuters report).

ETA has attacked hundreds of French vehicles and businesses in Spain in protest against a crackdown on militants by Paris.

## Russia loses home video revolution

Moscow (Reuters) — The Soviet Union's attempt to join the home video revolution is failing miserably, the youth paper *Komsomolskaya Pravda* said yesterday.

Some 50 factories are making the Soviet VM-12 recorder but production for the last 12 months was 4,000 instead of 12,000, and the 1985 target was cut from 32,000 to 20,000.

Out of every 100 machines sold in Moscow, eight had to go straight back for repair.

## Lange warns Pretoria 'before it is too late'

Nairobi — The New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, ended his African tour at the weekend with repeated assurances that his government will do all it can to stop the All Blacks rugby team from accepting an invitation to tour South Africa this year (Charles Harrison writes).

Mr Lange has repeatedly condemned apartheid, and yesterday called on Pretoria to recognize the rights of the black majority "before it is too late".

## Whitehall spending: 1

# Overcharging for most official supplies costs taxpayer £400m

The Government buys 14,000 loaves of bread every day, mainly to feed servicemen and prisoners.

Mr Robert Fulton, a Civil Servant working under the auspices of the Management and Personnel Office, discovered that the Home Office pays 6p more for a white loaf than the Ministry of Defence.

If the prisoners' bread were as cheap as the soldiers' the total bill could be cut by about 14 per cent, or £280,000 a year.

The Government was recently advised by Cabinet Office officials that similar savings could be made across the board: the Government was paying over the odds for all its supplies. The special and highly controversial initiative on purchasing made by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, will be the subject of an article tomorrow.

The Government spent about £14.9 million for goods and services in 1982, the latest year for which figures are available. Of this, some £7.3 million was spent by the MoD on weaponry. With figures of this size there was clearly likely to be what Mrs Thatcher called "room for improvement".

A review of purchasing outside MoD published last December bore this out. According to a Cabinet Office team "the overall costs can be reduced substantially". Savings

The taxpayer is overcharged for most government supplies and £400 million could be saved, according to the Cabinet Office. This week a shortlist is being drawn up of candidates from private industry for the new job of Whitehall spending chief. DAVID WALKER reports in the first of two articles.

of £400 million a year, 5 per cent, could readily be made.

One problem is inertia: Until recently her Majesty's Stationery Office was using paper for 8 per cent of its printing jobs but nowdays its types have to be worked demanded, wasting £400,000 a year.

Lack of planning has caused losses. If Whitehall departments programmed their need to buy cars and vans they could save £250,000 a year.

"Rationalization" can increase costs. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office used to buy tyres from local stockists but nowadays its tyres have to be bought centrally, through the MoD, which involves cross-checks with Nato codes and regulation Army forms to be completed (probably in triplicate). The tyres then come from Bicester while the bill for them is sent to the FCO from Liverpool. And because of the time taken to supply tyres, up to 10 months of stocks are kept at additional cost.

The proposed solution is to bring in private sector purchasing expertise. Korn Ferry International, a firm of "head

hunters", was commissioned earlier this year to find someone to run a Central Purchasing Unit in the Cabinet Office. It is to monitor how Whitehall departments buy goods, especially the Property Services Agency, the Crown Supplies, the Central Office of Information, HMSO and the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency, which together buy 12 per cent of all goods and services.

In addition the Government expects individual departments to appoint new directors of procurement and supply, possibly from the private sector.

Purchasing, as Lord Gowers has admitted, has long been regarded as a Cinderella activity. But there are signs of a new effort to sharpen Whitehall's buying — perhaps not before time, because, led by the Department of Health and Social Security and the Inland Revenue, central government is gearing up for computerization, a programme involving billions of pounds of purchases from the private sector.

Tomorrow: Defence procurement

## English sale makes £1.5m in New York

By Huon Mallalieu  
Sale Room Correspondent

In New York on Friday and Saturday Sotheby's offered English furniture and ceramics making a combined total of \$1,851,630 (£1,503,390) with 18 per cent bought in London

dealers helped to boost prices, but several of the most expensive items went to Americans.

A fine set of 12 George III carved mahogany dining chairs with arms, undoubtedly by one of the better makers, sold for \$176,000 (£143,090) in spite of insensitive modern resetting

The demand for good quality dining chairs was illustrated by the \$66,000 (£53,660) paid for an early George III pair in carved walnut.

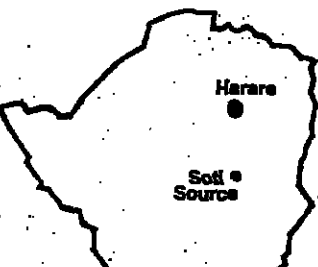
A sale of a collection of toys formed by Raymond E. Holland produced \$235,372 (£191,360) with 49 per cent unsold.

## Independence gives black farmer a new life

# Peace and plenty on resettled land

As Zimbabwe prepares to celebrate on Thursday the fifth anniversary of independence, Jan Raath looks through the eyes of three citizens at the changes since the advent of black rule. Today, he reports from the home of a peasant farmer at Soti Source, in the south-east.

Mr Rashamir Tazira, aged 55, is an elder of a fundamentalist religious sect who counts himself among the blessed. Since the fall of white-ruled Rhodesia in 1980, he has acquired a four-bedroom brick house which glows bright green with a fresh coat of paint. He has 12 acres of land from



ZIMBABWE Part 1

which he expects to reap nearly 18 tonnes of maize, and he owns 18 sleek head of long-horned cattle.

His seven children are all at school, four miles away is a clinic, a borehole nearby gushes clear water and his garden blooms with scarlet canna and canary creeper. What pleases him most, however, is that there are no more weapons around.

In November 1980, a Government lorry dumped him, his family, and 12 other families next to the ruins of a



Master of all he surveys: Mr Tazira, Apostolic Church crook in hand, looks out on his 12 fruitful acres.

white settler's house, formerly owned by an elderly Afrikaner couple, called van der Linde, who had been driven off by guerrillas during the Zimbabwean liberation war.

Mr Tazira, who speaks almost no English, used to be a shoemaker in the pioneer town of Fort Victoria (now Masvingo). Without money, he returned to his traditional home in Gutu communal land to scrape a subsistence living.

When the Government began its plan to resettle at least some of the hundreds of thousands of people crammed into overcrowded, infertile and hopelessly overworked communal lands, Mr Tazira and his family were the first to be moved. Soti Source, a stretch of rolling hills and valleys adja-

cent to Gutu, was the first to be resettled.

Mr Tazira arrived too late to make anything but the barest use of the heavy rainy season of 1980 to 1981, and the next three years were abysmal. Drought followed drought. In mid-1982, he harvested 10 bags of maize, and the next year, he managed to reach self sufficiency, with 15 bags. But last year the land yielded 95 bags.

Before independence the biggest crop harvested by peasant farmers was 65,000 tonnes. Last year, the small scale black farmers rescued the country from large scale food imports by growing 380,000 tonnes of maize, nearly 40 per cent of the country's total production.

The table in what serves for Tomorrow: White landowner

Mr Tazira's lounge showed, when I visited him, his roughly pencilled labours in an exercise book, attempting to budget according to sheets of computer printouts from the Agricultural Finance Corporation.

Repayments from a previous loan were rescheduled, and this season he borrowed Zim\$365 (£205) which he used almost exclusively for fertilizers that will enable him to produce 200 bags of maize, more than double last year's crop.

Next year will see the outstanding loan repayments out of the way, more fertilizer, the beginnings of the use of insecticides and a down payment on a car.

The final step on the road to success for Mr Tazira will be his own farm — as his land is on long-term lease — about 1,000 acres, and a small store.

He has not had to contend with the anguish his colleagues in the western provinces of Matabeleland have had to face in the past three years. The terror of strange voices in the village after dark — from guerrillas or security forces, but both entailing violence — is gone.

The 13 families resettled there now comprise the Protea Springs cell of the Zanu (PF) party of Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister. Politics in Protea Springs is not a problem.

"We are in a one-party province," Mr Tazira says. He sighs at the mention of the country's two opposition leaders, Mr Joshua Nkomo and Bishop Abel Muzorewa. "We have independence. What new kind of independence are they looking for now?"

Mr Hu and the Australian Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, flew across Australia from Perth to Canberra, with a stop in the remote mining town of Paraburdoo in Western Australia.

Helicopters took the two men to the proposed Mount Channar joint venture between China and the Hamersley Iron Company.

No final agreements are planned during Mr Hu's visit, but there seems little doubt the project, which could yield \$Aus 5.2 billion (about £3 billion) worth of ore, will go ahead.

Mr Hawke handed his guest a chunk of the 65 per cent pure ore which litters the area, and told him: "The first export of Channar ore to China, no royalties, no taxes."

"For us this is a piece of treasure and I have a little share," Mr Hu replied.

Trade and industry are expected to dominate discussions in Canberra between Mr Hawke and Mr Hu, who is on a 12-day tour



Russian Easter: Patriarch Pimen of Moscow and All Russia celebrating Orthodox Easter in the Soviet capital yesterday. Watched by police, Russians across the country crowded into churches to await the proclamation "Christ is risen".

## Hu finds an iron treasure in Australia

Canberra (Reuters) — Mr Hu Yaobang, general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, yesterday toured the Australian outback to see the site of a mine expected to provide his nation with billions of dollars' worth of iron ore.

Mr Hu and the Australian Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, flew across Australia from Perth to Canberra, with a stop in the remote mining town of Paraburdoo in Western Australia.

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## Ministers urged to make dog discs compulsory

By Our Local Government Correspondent

Compulsory dog discs should be issued to owners each year when the Government's new licensing scheme is working, the Association of District Councils says in evidence to ministers.

The law should require identification discs to be worn by dogs at all times and the colour of the discs should change each year when licences are renewed, it says.

The Government is keen to reform the present system under which the cost of collecting licence money is more than three times the revenue raised from owners who pay the 37p licence.

The association represents about 75 per cent of the councils in England and Wales, which will have to administer the new scheme. It says that the present single licence fee should be abolished.

It wants the Government to fix maximum and minimum levels within which councils can choose the amount they need to finance dog wardens, licence collection and the "education of owners in more responsible behaviour".

## Report calls for urgent review of rubbish dumping

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Government plans for dumping rubbish from the largest cities in England need changing urgently, an all-party committee of the House of Lords has said. It also said in a report about the abolition of seven large councils next year that far too little had been done to safeguard the indispensable scientific expertise of the threatened councils.

The interim report from the Lords committee — on science and technology appeared at an awkward moment for the Government. The Bill to abolish the councils next April will be considered by the Lords today.

Last year the Lords caused fur more damage than the Commons to the Government's plans and forced ministers to make concessions. Opponents of abolition hope that the Lords will soon dent the abolition programme again.

The threatened authorities are the Greater London Council; South and West Yorkshire county councils and Tyne and Wear, Merseyside, West Midlands and Greater Manchester county councils. All are Labour-controlled and are responsible for dumping rubbish collected by smaller councils in Britain's most densely-populated areas.

Lord Cranbrook, Conserva-

tive chairman of the committee, said that the Government should use as soon as possible its reserve powers to set up joint boards of district councillors to run waste disposal after abolition of the large councils.

The committee's recommendation cuts across talks already conducted by the Government with successor councils about transferring waste disposal to them rather than to new joint boards.

Lord Cranbrook said the committee also wanted the scientific services of the threatened councils to be switched to the new councils to be created to take on work that will not pass readily to smaller successor councils.

Mr John Gurnell, Labour leader of West Yorkshire County Council, said the threatened metropolitan councils welcomed the committee's recommendations.

"There is an easier way to do this," Mr Gurnell said. "Keep the metropolitan counties themselves, at least until a full and proper inquiry takes place."

Local Government Bill — Scientific Services: Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology. Fourth report: available from the Stationery Office.

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The Howe tour of Eastern Europe

# Solidarity hails West's gesture

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Solidarity activists yesterday expressed satisfaction at the visit to Warsaw of Sir Geoffrey Howe, declaring it an important statement of Western support for their cause.

Sir Geoffrey, who ended his Soviet bloc tour on Saturday, found time on Friday evening to light a candle and lay flowers - thrust upon him by supporters - at the grave of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the Solidarity priest murdered by secret policemen.

The foreign Secretary later told Polish and Western reporters that he had been deeply moved by the visit, and by the response of the crowd at the graveside who chanted their approval.

Professor Bronislaw Geremek, a former adviser to Solidarity's leader, Mr Lech Walesa, said that he and four of his colleagues had told Sir Geoffrey and his delegation of Solidarity's readiness to compromise with the authorities.

...his private talks with the Polish leader, General Wojciech Jaruzelski, and the Foreign Minister, Mr Stefan Olszowski, as well as in his public speeches. These were deleted by the censor from almost all official Polish newspapers during the visit, although many Poles heard the full text of his statements via Western radio stations broadcast in Polish.

At a final news conference, Sir Geoffrey denied that human rights had been the sole theme of his visit to East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Poland - he also secured small but important bilateral concessions and expressed clearly the Nato position on Kremlin proposals for a missile freeze - but emphasized that different social systems should not mean different degrees of respect for fundamental human freedoms.

"Poland's friends in Britain will find it difficult to support the warmer relationship with Poland that I would wish to develop, if progress towards internal reconciliation cannot be maintained," he added.

The Foreign Secretary also made clear that economic co-operation between the two countries also partly depended on progress in the political sphere.

Sir Geoffrey's impact on Eastern Europe has been difficult to gauge: Prague is said to have been extremely unhappy at a meeting between Sir Geoffrey's delegation and members of the human rights Charter 77 group. But Poland, though it initially opposed a visit to Father Popieluszko's grave, appears to have been more sanguine about the visit, prepared well in advance for the controversial references to human rights.

New pattern, page 14  
Leading article, page 15

## Paris sees start of a more open dialogue

From Our Correspondent Paris

Sir Geoffrey Howe had at times evoked the cause of human rights "in a spectacular fashion" during his trip to Eastern Europe, *Le Monde* said in its weekend edition.

The newspaper said that the Foreign Secretary's voyage, coupled with visits earlier this year to Romania and Bulgaria, illustrated London's desire for a new policy of a more open dialogue with the Warsaw Pact nations.

In an article prominently displayed on its foreign affairs page, the newspaper said that it was the election of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, and President Ronald Reagan that has led the former to soften her policy of "no dialogue" with countries that violate the Helsinki human rights accord. "Pragmatism has won the day as has been demonstrated by Sir Geoffrey

Howe's visit", according to *Le Monde*.

It also notes Sir Geoffrey's visit to the tomb of the murdered Solidarity priest.

*Le Monde* believes that while one purpose of Sir Geoffrey's tour was to facilitate the new dialogue between Washington and Moscow, the trip was also meant to encourage the development of inter-European relations.

● **BONN:** The West German media have given prominent coverage to Sir Geoffrey's Soviet bloc tour, and have welcomed it as supporting Bonn's own efforts towards a revival of dialogue between East and West.

● **ROME:** Sir Geoffrey's visit to Eastern Europe has been described factually in the Italian press, but with little comment (John Earle writes). It has aroused no more attention in the Press here than do the frequent visits abroad by Italian ministers in British newspapers.



# Killers of Warsaw priest to appeal

From Our Own Correspondent, Warsaw

The secret police officers who murdered Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the Solidarity priest, will this week appeal against their heavy jail sentences, at a time when the case is still sending shock waves through Church-state relations in Poland.

Informed sources said the appeal would be heard by the Warsaw Supreme Court on Friday and on Monday, April 22. It will not be as open as the public trial in January and February of the four former agents, Grzegorz Piotrowski, Adam Pietruszka, Leszek Pekala and Waldemar Chmielewski.

The effects of the trial are still apparent in the ministries most affected, those of Justice and the Interior. Solidarity sources say that the former head of the secret police department dealing with the church, General Zenon Platek, has been made head of the customs service, but there is no official confirmation. The Justice Ministry has dismissed two employees who expressed sympathy and support for the murdered priest.

According to documents reaching Western journalists, disciplinary commissions have decided to reject the appeal of two women clerks who were demoted and then dismissed for handing flowers to and applauding the priest at the time of his interrogations last year. The commission argued that they had thus compromised their status.

Both women argued that Father Popieluszko was never found guilty of any crime, should be regarded as totally innocent, and that their support for him was a private matter.

Meanwhile, parish priests with Solidarity contacts are feeling more exposed than ever. A Jesuit from Wroclaw, Father Adam Wiktor, has been told that the authorities are demanding his transfer, apparently because he was using his church for meetings with workers - a normal part of his parish duties.

## Narita leftists' threat

Tokyo - Leftist radicals wearing white masks and helmets to conceal their identities, yesterday rallied to claim responsibility for rocket attacks on two airports (David Watts writes).

Simultaneous attacks were made on Tokyo's Narita and Haneda airports late on Friday. Two rockets narrowly missed a Japan Airlines plane about to leave for Haneda, according to the police. The radicals from the "Middle Core" leftist faction bitterly opposed the building of the Narita International Airport in the 1970s.

Yesterday's gathering near Narita, north east of Tokyo, was told that 15 rockets had been fired. The leftists hinted at further attacks.

Police say the radicals, who are also believed to have carried out last year's attack on the Liberal Democratic Party headquarters, used a new and more accurate type of rocket with a range of up to 1,000 yards.

## Atlantis follows discovery

Atlantis, the fourth and final shuttle in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's fleet, riding down the runway at Ellington field, Houston, on top of a modified Boeing 747. The craft was on its way to Cape Canaveral.

Meanwhile, mission control told astronauts on the Discovery shuttle that there was only a "long-shot" possibility that two of them would take a space walk to repair a satellite. It was launched by Discovery on Saturday, but an apparent electrical failure left it drifting uselessly.

## Thai army strong man to stay on

From Neil Kelly Bangkok

Thailand's controversial supreme military commander, General Arthit Kamlang-Ek, who was due to retire in five months, is having his Army service extended for another year, according to reports in Bangkok.

General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Prime Minister, is said to have signed an order for the extension which is expected to be approved.

He is reported to have spoken of "the necessity" for General Arthit to continue his "incomplete missions in the armed forces".

General Arthit, who has been under something of a cloud since coming to power, has lately been silent and appears to have restored good relations with the Prime Minister and royal family.

It was General Arthit who led the successful campaign five years ago to extend General Prem's Army service when the Prime Minister was also Army commander-in-chief.

The extension will improve the general's chances of political power when he retires from the Army. Thai military men have always needed a base within the armed forces to gain political power.

## Hanoi says it will cut more troops

Hanoi (Reuters) - Vietnam plans to withdraw a third of its troops from Cambodia by the end of this year, Vietnam's Foreign Minister, Mr Nguyen Co Thach has said.

In an interview with Reuters giving the first detailed outline of Hanoi's military plans in Cambodia, Mr Thach said that by 1987 Vietnam's troop strength there would be halved from the present level if no negotiated settlement was reached.

In 1990 two-thirds of the troops would be back in Vietnam, and by 1995 Cambodia's armed forces would defend the country alone with all Vietnamese troops withdrawn, he said.

However, Vietnam has not revealed how many troops are in Cambodia, and Western diplomats estimate that there are up to 120,000 soldiers fighting, and Vietnamese guerrilla troops.

Vietnamese troops have moved into Cambodia in December 1978.

● **BANGKOK:** Resistance forces in Cambodia are making more successful attacks on Vietnamese forces in the interior, according to foreign aid officials working there. These successes are also being confirmed by Western intelligence analysts (Neil Kelly writes).

# An important question to all members of the House of Lords from the People of Merseyside

Right now you are considering the Local Government Bill. At issue is the abolition not just of the GLC or the Metropolitan County Councils as vague areas on a planner's map but the abolition of a Council serving a closely knit, special community on Merseyside. On behalf of the 1.5 million people contained in our area we ask you to pay special attention to our needs. Please remember the issues are not just about London or between Ken Livingstone and Margaret Thatcher, they are also about how best to create wealth, preserve the heritage and serve the best interests of Merseysiders.

## WHY ABOLITION?

The Government says it has a mandate for abolition. We think that is a spurious argument. Here's why:

**FIRST.** This is what the manifesto actually said: "The Metropolitan Councils and the Greater London Council have been shown to be a wasteful and unnecessary tier of government. We shall abolish them and return most of their functions to the boroughs and districts. Services which need to be administered over a wider area - such as Police and Fire, and Education in inner London - will be run by joint boards of borough or district representatives."

Those words "Metropolitan Councils" are themselves loose and nowhere are the Metropolitan County Councils identified, but the manifesto suggested the plan would be to go back to the arrangements that existed in local government until 1974. Nothing like that is being suggested now and on Merseyside 4 of the 5 District Councils were created at the same time as the County Council and so can hardly be having functions returned to them. In any case, is Patrick Jenkin really in favour of giving extra functions like, say, policing to the present rulers of Liverpool City Council?

**SECOND.** The suggestion that Merseyside County Council had been shown to be wasteful and unnecessary simply wasn't true and at no time have the Government provided any evidence to support that claim. The County Council is prepared to submit its record of performance over the last 10 years to any proper inquiry - from a Royal Commission to a Select Committee of Parliament. If the Government thinks it can prove its case why won't it put it on trial in this way?

**THIRD.** When the Government justifies its plan on the basis of a manifesto promise, is it really claiming that the people of Devon or Hertfordshire voted Conservative just to get rid of Merseyside County Council or even the GLC?

## WHAT THE GOVERNMENT SAYS...

They "The Metropolitan Councils, including Merseyside County Council" have comparatively few responsibilities...

THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS. MARGARET THATCHER, EXTRACT FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH THE EDITOR OF THE LIVERPOOL DAILY POST ON OCTOBER 2ND 1984.

In the small but densely populated County of Merseyside, Police, Fire and Transport are all obviously vital services which need to work closely together. These alone would justify a single authority but on Merseyside every major theatre, museum and art gallery is funded through the County Council. As well as these, the essential, if rather unexciting services

ranging from waste disposal and public analysts to creating a tourist industry are all (together with other very important functions) provided through Merseyside County Council. In short, Mrs. Thatcher just did not know what Merseyside County Council did before she made those comments!

If the Government are so convinced that there is no role for a Merseyside County Council why are they proposing to retain 82% of Merseyside's current expenditure on a county wide level?

"Merseyside County Council has the worst spending record of any Metropolitan County Council"

PATRICK JENKIN, APRIL 2ND 1985

In 1981, the streets of Merseyside saw some horrible sights. Millions of pounds of damage was done and hundreds of police officers were injured. Since then the Government has said it stands on its record of spending extra millions on Merseyside. Although we disagree about the effectiveness and extent of Government spending, if the Government thinks its extra spending is necessary, why condemn to death a Council for doing much the same?

All major political parties in Merseyside, Church and Civic Leaders and important local press agree - Merseyside County Council is the system of government that works best for Merseyside...

"I have already expressed publicly my regret at the proposals to abolish Merseyside County Council, precisely because I believe that Merseyside is a social and economic unit which needs to be kept together, a family in which the better-off members have the chance and the responsibility of helping the less fortunate. Whatever reorganisation may be thought desirable, I cannot believe that the right way is the abolition of that unit, leaving certain districts at grave disadvantage which can ultimately only be to the detriment of the whole area."

THE MOST REV. DESK WOLLOCK, ARCHBISHOP OF LIVERPOOL

"The County Council has an impressive record in the field of economic initiatives generating thousands of jobs in an area with a consistently high level of unemployment... Merseyside is a unique contribution in historic, social, cultural and economic terms and forms a natural area for government by a county-wide authority."

MERSEYSIDE ENTERPRISE FORUM: A local organisation of mainly private sector firms.

"In place of the County Council, the Government is foisting on to Merseyside an ill-thought-out, hodge-podge system of regional administration which even many of its own supporters believe is unworkable."

COMMENT - LIVERPOOL ECHO, MONDAY APRIL 1st 1985

"The County Council unanimously regrets the proposals by the Government in the White Paper 'Streamlining the Cities' in that the Council believes that the proposals should be reconsidered by the Government and, before any action to implement is taken, there should be a full, public, independent inquiry into the structure and financing of local government."

ALL-PARTY STATEMENT: Merseyside County Council.

## Getting to grips with the Star Wars paradox

It is a sad paradox that the will to achieve and invent is generated more in times of peace. It is equally true that an alliance can win wars, but is difficult to hold together in peacetime.

These are factors very much in the minds of European leaders as they study the "Star Wars" enigma against the 60-day deadline imposed last month by Mr Caspar Weinberger, the American Defence Secretary.

By mid-May the Europeans must decide whether to take part in the Star Wars (officially known as Strategic Defence Initiative) missile defence research programme and if so, how. As far as Britain is concerned, the answer is a definite yes, but it is less certain in what way. It is toying with the idea of collaboration with France and West Germany.

The American invitation had one obvious political motive - to bind its allies more closely to it as it presses on with the controversial programme. It also had the economic motive of saving taxpayers' money, since everything undertaken by other countries is that much less that had to be approved by Congress.

But some Nato countries are deeply suspicious of the political motive and believe they cannot afford to run down their own electorates by joining a new arms race. Others, Britain among them, are wary of sharing strategic research with allies which seem to lack total commitment to Nato.

In a similar way, there is difficulty persuading American industry to share technology which will enable the European allies to do important work on their own.

posed to exploit these differences.

The arguments have to be balanced against the economic facts of life. SDI will be hideously expensive, but there can be no doubt that the money poured into it by the US will help to launch American technology into a new era at a time when Europe is struggling hard to catch up with the present one.

As M Jacques Delors, the European Commission President, was quick to see, if the EEC countries do not involve themselves now they will drop further and further behind.

He was wrong to suggest that Community money should be spent on Star Wars, but right to draw attention to the need for EEC countries to act together.

Chauvinism apart, it seems a negation of the very idea of the Community not to co-operate and share the work and expense of such a project. Its peaceful spin-offs will inevitably help the European economy and it must be more sensible for a collection of countries to put their joint resources, both financial and intellectual, into the project.

At the political level, too, it is sure that a substantial European contribution would give it more say in the eventual future of SDI and thus a real presence at the arms negotiating table in Geneva.

These points will be in the minds of the Western European Union foreign and defence ministers when they meet next week.

A joint decision to accept the American invitation would thus be a step towards creating that "second pillar" of the Atlantic alliance which politicians have long yearned to see. Turning down the invitation will not stop Star Wars research going ahead. Accepting it could change the whole balance within Nato.

Ian Murray

# Will YOU give Merseyside a Fair Hearing?

ISSUED BY MERSEYSIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED



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## 8.30. MANN'S BEST FRIENDS.

Who wants to take sides in a home that could double for a madhouse?

In a new comedy series, Fulton Mackay plays Ordway, an ex-civil servant, who tries to bring order to this manic household. With reckless support from Barry Stanton as the landlord, Mr. Mann and Bernard Bresslaw as his demented aide.



## 5.30. I COULD DO THAT

Are you a whizzkid who thinks he could run a business? Or do you think most youngsters couldn't run a bath?

Over the next six weeks we take four would-be entrepreneurs to visit young successful businesses and try to show them the ropes. The experience could decide if they'll ever be captains of industry.

# WHICH SIDE WILL YOU BE ON TONIGHT?



## 9.00. END OF EMPIRE.

The heroes and villains of 1940's Singapore talk about the events that marked the greatest disaster and worst capitulation in the history of the British Empire.

The first of an epic series depicting the chaos of decolonisation. Would you stand for the National Anthem after tonight's episode?

## 4.50. ISaura THE SLAVE GIRL.

Where will your sympathies lie?

In this new series - of 1860's Brazilian slavery - Isaura is beautiful, well-educated and a white slave.

Yet she's treated like the daughter of the house.

When the son of the house returns from Paris, Isaura finds out how much of a slave she really is.



## 10.00. WOOLDRIDGE AT THE MASTERS.

Golf fanatic Ian Wooldridge will be capturing the euphoria or the tragedy - depending on whose side you're on - of this year's US Masters almost as soon as the winner has sunk the 18th. He then goes on to sample true Georgian hospitality as they're sinking them at the 19th.



KEEP YOUR EYE ON

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# Thatcher assures Gandhi of good faith in curbing Sikh extremists

From Michael Hamlyn  
Delhi

Mrs Margaret Thatcher left India yesterday in no doubt about the strength of feeling here about the activities of Sikh extremists in Britain.

While tension was reported running high in Southall, where there is a struggle for control of the Sikh management committee of the largest Sikh temple between moderate members of the Sikh political party and militant separatists, the Prime Minister was being told that India wanted to see firmer control of extremist activities.

Mrs Thatcher made abundantly clear her disapproval of any activity in Britain which might increase the danger of violence in India.

On television yesterday she repeated her assurances to the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, that Britain would do all it could to ensure that its hospitality was not abused.

"Terrorism is the enemy of us all," she told Mr Gandhi, and the rule of law must be upheld.

Whether these affirmations will be enough to satisfy those in the Indian Government who have questioned Britain's good faith remains to be seen.

British officials certainly seem to think there is now no political hindrance to further discussions leading to the defence contracts for which Britain is competing.

They say that restraint has been lifted for more than a month, and an official travelling with Mrs Thatcher says that discussions on the sale of Westland helicopters are continuing. Negotiations for a sale

## Eight Tamils die in police chase

Colombo. — Police ordered a curfew last night in the east coast town of Akkaraipattu, where clashes between Tamils and Muslims have resulted in five deaths. Eight alleged Tamil rebels died in an encounter with police yesterday (Dinakaran, *Moldrich* writes). Four died when their jeep ran off the road in a police chase. The other four occupants were shot dead.

of Harrier jump-jets are also in their final stages.

The British feel that Mrs Thatcher has been able at least to convince Mr Gandhi of her good faith, and that her inability to prosecute Dr Jagjit Singh Chauhan, the self-styled leader of "Khalistan", the would-be independent Sikh state, is based on legal realities.

At a personal level, the two prime ministers have evidently hit it off, as indicated by their time together without advisers, including an unscheduled ten minutes in the airport VIP lounge, and by Mrs Thatcher's invitation for Mr Gandhi to visit Britain on his way to or from the Commonwealth heads of government meeting.

Mrs Thatcher looked pale as she left Delhi and — to be ungrateful — showing every one of her 59 years (her 60th birthday is in October). The trip has not been kind to her health, and her address to the Sri Lanka Parliament on Saturday was halted by coughing which left her calling in a small voice for a glass of water.

Aides said yesterday she was suffering from a cold and a

throat infection brought about by constant moves from Sri Lanka's humid outdoor heat to the air-conditioned chill of the luxurious buildings she visited. She was on the mend.

Her oppression by Sri Lanka's heat may also have had something to do with a slip of the tongue at her press conference in Kandy, when she confused Singapore, which she had just visited, with Hong Kong, which she had not.

She said as part of her reply to a question about the success of her tour, "we have no bilateral problems with Hong Kong."

Sri Lanka figured largely in her conversations with Mr Gandhi partly because she had just come from there and partly because she was interested to hear of Mr Gandhi's political problems in inhibiting Sri Lankan separatists in south India.

During her talks with Mr Jayewardene and his ministers, the subject of British aid to a further dam project was discussed. The new project, Samanvalaya, is at about the same state as was the Victoria dam on the Mahaweli river, when Britain decided to support it.

The subject was not resolved, as British Government departments have still not agreed whether to support such a big project with a high resource cost, draining money which might more usefully be spent on less dramatic items.

● LONDON: A group of Sri Lankans living in Britain have drawn up a peace plan for the country in which they call for racial abuse to be outlawed (Henry Stanhope writes).

They want Tamil recognized as an official language



How for freedom: A woman hitting out with her handbag at a neo-Nazi youth during a Swedish Nazi Party rally in the southern town of Vaxjo yesterday. One thousand people turned out on the Nazis, driving them through the streets until police locked them in the railway station for their own protection.

## Sudan runs into trouble in search for civilian leaders

From Paul Valley  
Khartoum

Negotiations continued yesterday for a fourth day among the groups who led the opposition in Sudan to the deposed President, General Gaafar Nimeiry, in an attempt to find a new civilian administration.

Optimistic leaders of the alliance of professional associations, trade unions and political parties had predicted that agreement would be reached on Friday on the membership of the Council of Ministers which is to be responsible to the Army for the day-to-day running of the country during the transitional period to free elections.

But agreement has been difficult to come by with the seven unions and six political parties involved in lengthy caucus meetings, dominated by wrangling over the distribution of the 15 seats.

After talks which continued into the small hours of yesterday the alliance postponed a meeting with the Army high command at which it was to

## US food aid for Ethiopia rebels

Washington. — The US has reportedly sponsored an unpublicized year-long feeding programme in rebel-held areas of northern Ethiopia through Sudan, and will soon ask the new military Government of Sudan for permission to expand the effort (Christopher Thomas writes).

According to *The Washington Post*, the Agency for International Development, a US Government body, has already approved 115 tonnes of food and 86 lorries for the operation. Sudan has expressed a desire to improve relations with Ethiopia.

have presented a list of nominees.

On Saturday evening the Muslim Brothers held a rally at Khartoum university's football stadium. It was addressed by Ahmed Haj Nour the former

head of the Court of Appeal in the final days of the application of Sharia law, who called for the crucifixion of General Nimeiry and Omer al-Tayeb, his first vice-president.

● WASHINGTON: Sudan's new leader says he intends to modify the strict Islamic law imposed in October 1983 by General Nimeiry, resulting in "incorrect and excessive punishment" being imposed by the courts (Christopher Thomas writes).

General Abdul-Rahman Swar al-Dahab, made the remark in an interview with American journalists in Khartoum, published yesterday. He denied categorically that there was any consultation with the US before or during the bloodless coup which overthrew the 16-year Nimeiry regime.

The Reagan Administration said at the weekend that it would soon release about \$67 million (£53 million) in economic aid to Sudan that had been frozen.

## Banda to get royal welcome

By Henry Stanhope  
Diplomatic Correspondent

Malawi's Minister of Defence, Justice, Foreign Affairs, Agriculture and Public Works arrives in Britain tomorrow in the person of Life President Hastings Banda, who is here for a four-day state visit. He is aged, it is thought, 87.

Camden Human Rights Group will present a letter at 10 Downing Street appealing for clemency in the case of Mr Orton Chirwa, the nearest thing Malawi has to a leader of the opposition. With his wife, Vera, he has been sentenced first to death then life imprisonment for alleged treason and is languishing in a Lilongwe jail.

But it is unlikely to cloud the horizon of the one-time Willesden general practitioner who has ruled the former colony of Nyasaland with an authoritarian hand since independence 21 years ago.

Princess Anne, who was in Malawi two years ago as president of the Save the Children Fund, will meet Dr Banda at Heathrow and escort him to Windsor Castle, where he will stay, as a guest of the Queen.

He will meet Mrs Margaret Thatcher for talks and luncheon at Downing Street on Wednesday, when political developments in South Africa will clearly be the main talking point.

Anglo-Malawi relations present few problems for either country, given the President's pro-Western politics and his dependence on a British aid package now totalling about £134 million a year.

## UK agrees to increase instructors in Uganda

Kampala (AFP). — Britain is to increase its military training team in Uganda from 13 to 20 next month, the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Mr John Stanley, said in Entebbe yesterday.

He agreed to renew the contract for a second year. Uganda asked Britain last month to expand the team's operations to cover all Ugandan Army brigades.

## Dissident in play boycott

Vienna (Reuters). — Czechoslovak playwright Vaclav Havel was conspicuously absent for the world premiere here of his *Largo Desolato*, a drama about demands faced by a dissident intellectual.

Emigre sources said Mr Havel let it be known he would not attend unless he received guarantees from the Czechoslovak authorities that he would be allowed to return to the country after the performance.

## Artificial heart

Louisville, Kentucky (AP). — A former Illinois railway worker, Mr Jack Burcham, became the world's fifth recipient of an artificial heart yesterday.

## Contadora deal

Panama City (Reuters). — Hurdles have been overcome for verifying a draft Central American peace treaty and detailed plans will be drawn up for reducing military forces, the Contadora group agreed at the end of its two-day meeting here.

## Warm welcome

Manila (AP). — The chairman of the congressional sub-committee for Asia and the Pacific, Representative Stephen Solarz, was booed and called a friend of communists when he arrived here for a short visit. Mr Solarz has opposed increased US military aid to the Philippines.

## Soviet émigré

Vienna (AFP). — Mr Bernard Lampert, a Soviet Jew of American origin, arrived here from Moscow after a five-year battle for permission to emigrate. He left the US in 1934 with his parents, who wanted to help "socialist construction" in the Soviet Union.

## War bride jaunt

Long Beach, California (AP). — Forty years after the US opened its doors to them, Second World War brides from 20 countries joined a reunion on board the converted liner, Queen Mary, which brought many women to America.

## Timetable of an 11-day marathon

Mrs Thatcher's 11-day marathon began with a 16-hour flight to Kuala Lumpur, leaving Heathrow on Thursday, April 4 with no break from the rigours of Westminster and Whitehall. Her working Easter began on:

April 5: Malaysia. Sticky start when Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister, gave Commonwealth a low rating. Deal on airline rights.

April 6: She spoke of seething off miners' strike and said British unions learning facts of life.

April 7: Defended remarks on unions as row rumbles in Britain.

April 8: Singapore. The Prime

Minister told Mr Lee Kuan Yew: "I never have a doctor — I would finish up looking after him."

April 9: Brunei and Indonesia. Met Sultan of Brunei as row broke in Britain. Mr Gerald Kaufman, Labour home affairs spokesman, spoke of "the enemy abroad", with Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, defending.

April 10: Mr Roy Hattersley, deputy Labour leader, attacked Mrs Thatcher's "crowing", gaffe about "problems of Malaysia."

April 11: Newspaper interview in which she said controversial decision about students' fees taken while she was abroad.

Brushed aside question about union remarks: "I'm not here to discuss Labour."

April 12: Sri Lanka. Mr Neil Kinnock accused her of defaming and bashing Britain. She showed signs of wilting in heat and confused Hong Kong and Malaysia.

April 13: Sri Lanka and India. Seized by coughing during address to Sri Lankan Parliament. Lord Whitelaw and Mr Norman Tebbit defend her remarks on unions and stress role in selling Britain.

April 14: Saudi Arabia. Brief stopover talks before returning to London.

## Voters defy threats in Peru

Lima (AFP). — Voters yesterday defied threats from guerrillas of the neo-Maoist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) movement and turned out in large numbers as polls opened in Peru's general election.

About 105,000 police and soldiers were deployed to ensure smooth running after the guerrillas threatened to disrupt the election and attack voters.

The election is expected to be won by the left, with the American People's Revolutionary Alliance led by Señor Alan García, a top of opinion polls, followed by a coalition of eight other left-of-centre parties, known as the United Left, led by Lima's Marxist Mayor, Señor Alfonso Barrantes Lingann.



Helping hand: A Peruvian soldier advising a prospective voter with a problem in Lima

## Shultz and Abe try to head off trade war

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Mr George Shultz, US Secretary of State, and Mr Shintaro Abe, the Japanese Foreign Minister, met for two hours on Saturday in an apparently blunt session aimed at averting a trade war between the two countries. Both said they made headway.

The meeting resulted in an agreement to speed up talks on improving access to Japan for American telecommunications equipment. Mr Shultz said Japan had agreed to reduce "to a minimum" the cumbersome technical standards that have been blocking such sales.

Apart from that nothing substantive seems to have emerged from the talks, which were held against a backdrop of

mounting American hostility towards Japan's trade practices and growing congressional pressure to protect US industries.

State Department officials said "specific things" had been agreed but emphasized that they were stages in a process.

Mr Shultz said: "We must begin to hear cash registers ring. We are all threatened by protectionism. Protectionism is not a cure for an illness. It is itself an illness and one that can spread like the plague."

A State Department official said the most important aspect was Mr Shultz's emphasis on the strength of feeling in America about the deficit with Japan.

## Albania bans foreigners at Hoxha funeral

Vienna (AP). — Albania, in a departure from international diplomatic practice, has ruled out foreign participation at today's funeral of Mr Enver Hoxha, the veteran communist leader who died last Thursday.

Mr Ramiz Alia, aged 59, chairman of the People's Assembly and head of state, was elected as the new First Secretary of the Albanian Communist Party on Saturday according to Albanian state radio.

In a move showing total opposition to the superpowers, Albanian leaders sent back a Soviet telegram of condolence as "unacceptable" and Mr Simon Vogli, First Secretary of the Embassy, said on Saturday that a US condolence cable, if it came, would also be rejected.

## Reagan war graves visit hailed

From Frank Johnson  
Bonn

West Germans, especially the middle-aged, appear to be moved by, and grateful for, Mr Reagan's decision to visit a German war cemetery. The visit is seen as an act of forgiveness and magnanimity. People here seem well aware however that the Reagan Administration may now be thinking that it was not a good idea in view of the opposition it has aroused in the US.

This opposition was the subject of the main item in *Welt am Sonntag* yesterday, but the reassuring headline was: "Reagan firm on Bitburg." The mass circulation *Bild am Sonntag* had a photograph of the cemetery and the headline: "Here Reagan will bow before German soldiers."

Underneath a reporter describes the quiet of the cemetery and adds that his father was killed in action in 1944 when he was not yet born.

But if it can be shown, as *Pravda* suggests, that the cemetery contains the graves of troops who committed atrocities against Americans, there is no doubt that there will be embarrassment and grief all round.

● MOSCOW: Mr Reagan will be making a "bow to the Third Reich" by visiting the graves of World War Two German soldiers, *Pravda* said yesterday (Reuters reports).

Bride of Belsen, page 13

## Harvard's city sanctuary defies the White House

From Trevor Fishlock, Cambridge, Massachusetts

In a calculated act of defiance of the Reagan Administration, the city of Cambridge, home of Harvard University, has declared itself a place of sanctuary for refugees from Central America.

As far as possible within the law, city employees will give no help to Government immigration agents hunting illegal immigrants from El Salvador and Guatemala, and also from Haiti.

Cambridge is making a protest against what it sees as a double standard in government policy on political asylum. It joins the growing "sanctuary movement" which challenges the government to uphold

American traditions of helping the oppressed.

In particular, the movement says the government should abide by the 1980 Refugee Act, which offers asylum to people with "a well-founded fear of persecution" in their native lands.

The government, however, is cracking down on illegal immigrants from Central America and on the sanctuary movement, which is run mainly by church groups.

More than 200 churches, most of them in the south-west openly support sanctuary, and many others do so in a more discreet way. Two people have been convicted in Houston,

Texas, for harbouring aliens; and in Arizona 16 people, including nuns, a Catholic priest and Protestant minister, have been charged with hindering law officers.

The Administration sees the movement as a challenge to its Central American policy. It wants to show the political climate in El Salvador is improving, and its aims would not be helped if asylum were granted to large numbers of Salvadorean refugees.

It is extremely difficult for people from El Salvador and Guatemala to succeed in making a case for asylum: only 3 per cent of Salvadorean applications were accepted last

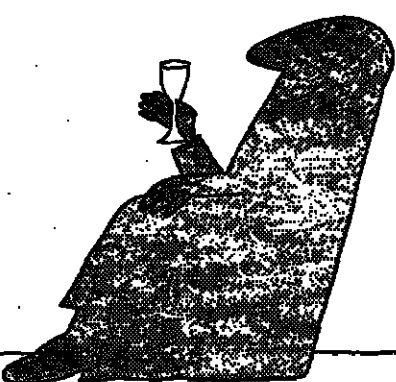
year. It is much easier for those from Russia, Poland, Hungary, and Iran to get permission.

The Administration's view is that people from Central America are fleeing poor economic conditions rather than political persecution.

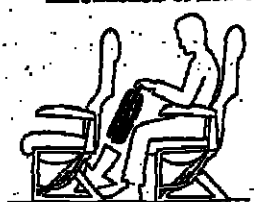
In declaring itself a city of sanctuary, Cambridge follows the lead of Berkeley, California, St Paul, Minnesota, and Madison, Wisconsin.

The Mayor of Chicago is also denying the Immigration Service access to city records; and city officials in San Jose, California, have stopped helping the service where people say they are running from oppression.

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The Marshall Inquiry on Greater London  
Report to the Greater London Council by  
Sir Frank Marshall M.A. LL.B.

# **THE EXPERTS' VIEW OF THE GLC. TO SEE HOW THE GOVERNMENT SEES IT, SHUT YOUR EYES.**

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In short, not only did they agree that London needed an elected London-wide authority, they actually

recommended strengthening the GLC's powers.

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(Led by Patrick Jenkin, who actually volunteered his support for the GLC during the Marshall Inquiry.)

It's against the advice of the experts and against the wishes of Londoners.

We think it's time the Government took account of their views.

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مركز الأبحاث



# THE ARTS

## Television Plaintive beauty

Amusing as it is to imagine David Attenborough in hot pursuit of a pobble, a jumbly or even a luminous dong, it does seem nonsensical that a dramatization of a Victorian poet and painter should come from the BBC's Natural History Unit. Yet last night's profile of Edward Lear, scripted by Alan Plater of recent Miss Marple fame, provided one of the best hours of the year. On the edge of the Sand (BBC 2) was witty, plaintive and beautifully acted by Robert Lang, whose vinegary voice delivered nonsense verse that made sense of Lear's timid, eccentric life.

The twentieth of 21 children, Lear led a life shadowed by epilepsy - a "demon" he kept well hidden. It came to light last night in the occasional discord but otherwise his own music, melodiously arranged by Johnny Pearson, accompanied him from childhood, through middle-aged travels, to his lonely dotage in Italy.

On the way, we saw him tutor the children of Knowsley Hall, teach Queen Victoria to draw and enter the Royal Academy where he felt "like a lettuce fallen among rabbits". Though the Royal Academy is about to mount an exhibition of his work, we could have had more of what he wrote and painted with his blue hands out of his green head.

Boredom, not madness, was

the mainspring of Turgenev's romantic comedy *A Month in the Country* (BBC 1). "To be bored by friends is the worst thing", sighed Ian Charleson as the arrogant, gloomy Rikkin. When a young tutor - looking like Jonathan Miller - arrives at a prosperous country-house the conditions are ripe for an epidemic of lovesickness. Among those struck down are the married lady of the house, petulantly played by Eleanor Bron.

Like a black and white tulip bursting from a violet dress, she is so breathlessly attracted to the boy one can almost see the butterfly fluttering from her mouth. She becomes as cold and capricious to her own tutor, Rikkin, as to her young ward Vera on discovering this girl too is under the tutor's spell.

Turgenev likes nothing more than the tempests to be found in teacups and into a seemingly trivial set-up he stirs deep insights and genuine torment. This was notably conveyed last night. The first half dragged even though the action appeared to take place in a day - and Bill Hays, the director, for some unconvincing reason kept his cameras at a distance. It is doubly difficult to see the depths concealed by trivia if you cannot get close up.

Nicholas Shakespeare

## Concerts Bleakly liberated

BBCSO/Pritchard  
Festival Hall/Radio 3

Shostakovich was no fool. The Eleventh Symphony, which the BBC Symphony Orchestra played on Friday with concentrated, bleak intensity, is a work that superficially falls well within the bounds of "socialist realism". It uses revolutionary songs, the people's music, quotes the hymn to which Lenin had been buried; and tells a stirring pictorial tale, that of the 1905 revolution.

But because that pre-1917 uprising was a bloody, unsuccessful attempt, Shostakovich was liberated by his very faithfulness to his programme to write just the kind of overblown, depressing music of heart-rending emptiness to which he was increasingly drawn in his later years. The Eleventh Symphony may be demonstrably about 1905, but it is surely just as much about 1955 and 1956 and 1957, when it was written.

It is a vast canvas, and the main quality required for its

successful realization is a big, broad sweep - just the kind of rounded, unhurried forcefulness which Sir John Pritchard cultivates so well. If the last movement, there was no lack of hard-hitting power from the brass, and a surprisingly vicious attack from the strings in their *fugato* passages.

Both the opening and the close, still and desolate, were unusually atmospheric for this hall, and Pritchard sustained the impetus from section to section in this one-movement structure with scarcely a suspicion of flagging.

In the first half there was rather less successfully, Rachmaninov's First Piano Concerto. The orchestral playing was shattering, Jean Sutherland's brilliant but very unvaried tone suggested a mechanical piano roll: the special character of the concerto was scarcely hinted at, and it came out sounding like Rachmaninov's Second, but without the tunes.

Nicholas Kenyon

RPO/Ashkenazy  
Festival Hall

To be frank, this was not the most refined orchestral playing I have heard recently, but all the same it must surely count among the most honestly musical.

For their concert on Saturday the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra gained inspiration, it seemed, not simply from the music, though it is programme which includes masterpieces by both Brahms and Richard Strauss is bound to stir the blood in one way or another. They were also blessed to have as their guide to the adventurous paths that those composers tread in symphony and tone-poem Vladimir Ashkenazy, who time and again shows an uncanny ability to engineer responses from his colleagues that are both thoughtful and immediate.

For colleagues, with a common purpose, they were heard to be, first in a crisp, positive reading of Brahms's *Tragic Overture* and then in that composer's Third Symphony, surely the most subtly expres-

sive of the four. True, there were places where Ashkenazy's sense of rhythm - or perhaps his gift of communicating it - threatened to desert him; the beginning of each movement took time to settle into a comfortable stride and in the Andante there were some unmarked changes of tempo. But, with the RPO's strings making a sweet sound and the woodwind section playing with real poise, the odd interpretative infelicity did no more than add to the spontaneous feeling of the reading, though the atmosphere of the whole was darker than usual.

Nothing there, however, prepared us for the panache with which the orchestra, together with the cellist Lynn Harrell and, let us not forget, the principal viola player John Harrington, despatched Strauss's *Don Quixote*, arguably the zenith of his achievement in the field of programme music. As Brahms looks forward to Schoenberg, so here Strauss's free-ranging styles and complexities remarkably anticipate lives, making us smile into the bargain. Clever man.

Stephen Pettitt

John Fowles describes the unusual challenge he faced in translating *Martine*, opening at the National on Saturday

## Theatre of the unexpressed

When Sir Peter Hall asked me to tackle a play he had long marked for production at the National, Jean-Jacques Bernard's *Martine*, an honest answer would have been a totally blank face. I felt embarrassed at the time to know nothing of him. At least I have discovered since that I am very far from alone, even among the French. Few I have asked have shown anything but blank faces, also. One of the very rare exceptions on this side of the Channel was Harold Pinter. His enthusiasm is fitting, because Bernard is an important, if somewhat generally forgotten, pioneer of the theatre of which Harold himself is our leading exponent.

Jean-Jacques, born in 1888, was the son of a well-known writer of comedies and farces, Tristan Bernard - but no carbon copy of his witty and essentially light-hearted father. A number of factors seem to have turned him towards a more serious view of life, among them his Jewish blood and his experience at the Front in the First World War, from which he drew the material for his early short stories and plays. Two of the latter produced just after the war first drew attention to him. Both are psychologically clever and interesting, and explicit. With his next play, *Martine*, we are in a different world.

*Martine* was a product of Bernard's joining (in 1922) an ephemeral theatre group called the *Chimere*, assembled by the outspoken director Gaston Baty. The more enlightened directors and actors at this time (Baty and Coquelin, Louis Jouvet, the Pitoëffs, Dullin, and many others) hardly presented a united front against themselves, but they shared a common contempt for the highly artificial "Shaftesbury Avenue" side of the Parisian theatre with its historical extravaganzas, boulevard farces, and the rest. They all sought more realistic acting, the minimal décor, subtlety and seriousness.

(Freud's ideas were everywhere in the air) *Martine* fitted that bill brilliantly, and was to become the classic example of this new approach to drama. Not only an excellent play in its own right, above all it helped clear the ground for the triumphs of the mid-century French theatre, from Giraudoux on: Anouilh, Sartre, Ionesco, Beckett and all the rest.

It also came with a new dramatic theory, first misnamed the theatre of silence, but better described as that of the unexpressed. What Bernard was aiming at (and continued to aim at in many other plays up to 1939) was "a dialogue lying beneath the heard dialogue". "The theatre has no worse enemy than fine writing," he declared. "A feeling expatiated upon loses all strength." Farewell *Phedre*, farewell *Hamlet*; what matters is finding non-verbal means to express all that characters cannot, or will not, declare.

This means that the normal problem for a translator (one I suffered from when I translated De Musset's *Lorenzaccio*), putting fine words in one language into fine ones of his own, hardly exists with this script. Outwardly *Martine* has scarcely a fine phrase in it. Although painstakingly exact, its language is kept constantly plain, broken and tentative. When I handed in the first draft of my own translation, I pointed out that the play depends to an extraordinary degree not on the text, but on the director and his cast. It is almost like an operatic libretto - but strictly that alone; all the music has to be created in the performance.

The key to *Martine* lies very much with its inarticulate peasant heroine. She has very nearly the smallest part in terms of number of words to speak; yet none the less must dominate the final "feel" of the play. Many famous actresses have played the role, and in very different ways, and I look forward to seeing how the gifted young Wendy Morgan comes through

this exceptionally difficult part. Two minor initial production problems were not foreseen. One was how dim the harsh realities of the old agricultural life have grown among a younger generation than Peter Hall and myself. Barry Rutter, who plays *Martine's* peasant lover, illustrated the other to us at the beginning - reading a speech in impeccable rural English and then suddenly pronouncing a French name in equally flawless French, with (unwanted) hilarious effect.

*Martine* was played with great success in England in 1933 (James Agate: "Though a little masterpiece, it is an impeccable one"), and it will be interesting to see how the 1980s receive it. One cannot call so realistic and understated a piece a tragedy, perhaps. Yet the iron determinism of its basic situation remains as true today as in 1922. Some suffer finer feelings, yet cannot speak them. The *Martines* of this world are eternally damned by their inability to express themselves, and their damnation has seldom been so convincingly portrayed.

Rehearsals began when Sir Peter was in the throes of his battle for the National, and I suppose some may question the wisdom of bringing such a little-known "chamber" play into the repertoire at this point. But I am warmly on Sir Peter's side in this (as in the other battle); I can't think of a more apt example of what a National Theatre should be for. Its major task must always be to present outstanding British work, past and present; but heaven help us if there is not also a place for other theatre. If drama is not finally international, and reflects all humanity, it is nothing. Bernard, in going against French tradition and "nervously" denying his actors much of normal eloquence and poetry, may have swung against the mainstream. The result, as I hope spectators will agree, does not deserve its recent oblivion.



Fowles: seeking a broken, tentative language

## Opera

Lucia di Lammermoor  
Covent Garden

With Bergonzi partnering Sutherland the weekend's revival of *Lucia di Lammermoor* looked a bit like a reunion of some operatic Darby and Joan club. For both singers their sixties beckon. But it was also a case of the most stylish Italian tenor of his generation appearing beside the reigning Lucia of the century.

Rewards were likely to occur. And rewards came - in abundance - to an emotional audience anxious to catch sight and sound of a pair of singers they have long cherished. Most sopranos grow out of roles. Dame Joan Sutherland has steadily grown into Lucia. She may have brought a trunkful of new costumes from Sydney, including a fetching turquoise and tawny number for the Fountain Scene, but many of the details from Zeffirelli's production of 26 years ago remain the same: the shadow cast on the wall before the entry for the Mad Scene and the dash down the steps before she stops and seizes the scenery for support, the little skittering run across the stage as Lucy remembers the wedding day that was not, "O lieto giorno".

Some of the notes, especially in the middle register, may not be given their full value, but few sopranos can float Donizetti's phrases out into the auditorium as Dame Joan still does. The house gave her a standing ovation, after madman had brought death, rightly so, and it is some time since I have encountered that at the end of a scene at Covent Garden. Carlo Bergonzi was, surprisingly, singing his first ROH Edgardo. No skittering runs across the stage for him in a pair of black leather Cuban-heeled boots and a doublet that needed tugging down from time to time. Bergonzi's voice, like Sutherland's, was utterly unmistakable; together they launched into the swaying rhythm of



Joan Sutherland and Carlo Bergonzi in the swaying rhythm of "Verrano a te"

"Verrano a te". The attack and accuracy of his tenor remain undimmed and the way Bergonzi started the Sextet should be a model for all aspirant Edgardos. Some of the high notes now have to be squeezed out, perhaps a touch painfully, but emerge they do, and Bergonzi had plenty in hand for Edgardo's final scene. Here he showed the exact strain of *malinconia*, displayed by Sutherland earlier, essential for Lucia - a Victorian plangency which should make those who have tickets count themselves lucky.

The supporting cast is powerful, led by John Ravensley's Enrico. This Lord Henry may

be a figure more out of Priestley than Scott, but Ravensley, swaggering in the opening scene and oily in his dealings with sister Lucy, was not going to let his more famous partners steal all the honours. Gwynne Howell's Raimondo was properly solemn and Arthur Davies made an attractive Arturo before being stabbed on his wedding night.

Richard Bonynge was supportive rather than assertive in the pit. Zeffirelli's production now looks considerably older than its tenor and soprano: all Scottish baronial gloom, although the moon still plays on the lake and the lights twinkle in Ravenswood as Lucy is carried to her grave. Some sponsor, though, should donate Covent Garden a can of oil: the house curtain stuck again as it did during *Capriccio*.

John Higgins

## PUBLISHING Ask the author

Group, and, confusingly because they in their turn are owned by Penguin, which is ultimately owned by Pearson, Longman have acquired Pimman.

The British book trade is now big business, and publishing shares are worth purchasing - look at Collins's figures, and those of Haynes. The fact is, to state what should be obvious but always needs restating, that the onlie begetters of the product which causes publishers to sink or swim are a breed called authors. They are bound to be affected by the recent activity in corporate boardrooms, where managers and directors of international divisions and holding companies wield such power.

Economic sense it may well be for certain publishing houses to amalgamate, to create bigger and more efficient organizations to withstand especially the American challenge, particularly in parts of the world where

the British book was once paramount but has recently been losing ground. Also, amalgamation may be the only sensible way, in 1980s, to cope with the frenetic overproduction of new titles - last year we easily topped 50,000 - and the equally unfortunate low average sale of those titles.

There is an inevitable, appropriate paradox in the publishing of books. The author is likely to be the only person concerned in the process of turning words into book who is not a member of the publishing house, not involved (as opposed to concerned with) the nine-month gestation period. But it is essential that he or she is made to feel the most important, fundamental being in that process.

This is less and less likely to be the case as one-time individualistic, charismatic imprint merge, are taken over, become part of big battalions. Not only shareholders and management should have a say when one publishing house is wooed and won by another. It is identity, whatever the initial protestations to the contrary, will inevitably change. Authors should be consulted also, whether or not their contracts allow their books to be assigned to new ownership without their blessing. E. J. Craddock

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# SPECTRUM

In the first of a three-part series Geraldine Norman examines the threat to national treasures as death duties break up stately homes

## A nation being held to ransom



Britain's artistic patrimony, the art treasures accumulated by generations of British connoisseurs, is at risk. A booming art market and a strong dollar are proving too much for the system of defences carefully built up by successive governments. Unless some action is taken soon there will be a crisis.

Most of the legislation aimed at protecting the national heritage has been the work of Labour governments, most especially in the overall philosophy that the owners of stately homes should be encouraged by tax concessions to stay on, on condition that they open their houses to the public. Under a Conservative government, with a market economy outlook, parts of the machinery have become unworkable. The present Government has effectively killed off the system for accepting works of art in lieu of capital taxes, in their efforts to curb public expenditure.

In a series of three articles Geraldine Norman will explore the human realities behind the "national heritage" problem, the strains that keeping a stately home running can impose on the family concerned. The future of three great houses, Kedleston Hall, Nostell Priory and Weston Park hangs in the balance this year while the National Heritage Memorial Fund negotiates over the purchase of their art collections. We look at the problems of the families involved.

The cycle of life and death, one generation succeeding another, is the principal threat to the survival of Britain's stately homes. On each succession death duties, or capital transfer taxes, have to be paid; often this means another slice of agricultural land which supports the house has to be topped off, or another Rembrandt must be sent on its way to the sale room.

The stately homes of England, several hundred of which are now open to the public, provide a cultural experience that is, perhaps, unique. The castles, chateaux and villas of Europe have mostly been stripped of their contents by war or revolution.

In Britain magnificent buildings, often in specially landscaped parks, survive, with the majority of their historic accumulations of furnishings and art treasures still intact. But there is a steady erosion. Death strikes at several houses each year, presenting unpredictable problems: other family pressures - divorce, insanity, alcoholism or a penchant for the good life - send more historic treasures, major and

minor, away for sale to raise cash. "Saving the national heritage" is all about preserving these houses for the delight of future generations and preventing the sale of their art treasures abroad.

The combination of high capital taxes, a strong dollar and a booming art market, is currently putting this heritage at risk. This year began with the future of three magnificent houses in the balance: Kedleston Hall in Derbyshire, Nostell Priory in Yorkshire and Weston Park in Shropshire.

In February the Government announced a special grant of £25 million to the National Heritage Memorial Fund specifically to help negotiate their rescue.

It was a good start, but the three houses are by no means safe; each presents different personal and financial problems and there may not be enough money. The fund is going to have a difficult time of it. Kedleston appears to need £21.5 million, Nostell £3.5 million and Weston £8 million; £33 million in all, which is £8 million more than the grant.



Photograph by Robin Lawrence

An architectural masterpiece: Robert Adam adapted the triumphal arch for the central facade overlooking the garden

### KEDLESTON HALL home of Lord Scarsdale

Kedleston Hall is most important. It is one of architect Robert Adam's masterpieces, built and furnished within seven years for Sir Nathaniel Curzon, later the first Baron Scarsdale, who succeeded in 1758 to the estate which had already belonged to the Curzons for 700 years. It was built to house Sir Nathaniel's picture collection, which remains set into the walls as he and Adam arranged it. The original furnishings, such as giltwood sofas riding on mermen and a state bed

supported by gilded palm trees, also remain in place.

The domed central block has a facade overlooking the garden and a portico facing the drive. Sweeping corridors connect it to two side pavilions, one housing the family apartments and the other the Indian museum collected by the great Marquess Curzon of Kedleston, Viceroy of India. "Sir Nat" swept away the village and rebuilt it outside the park to accommodate a series of lakes.

The present problems stem from a tax bill of around £2.5 million following the death of the second Viscount Scarsdale in 1977. The third Viscount, his cousin, is trying to keep the agricultural estate intact, since it is the source of the family income - it is comprised of over

5,000 acres and 17 farms. He wants the house, the most important contents and the park (valued at £12 million), to go to the National Trust with the Curzon family retaining the right to live in the family wing in perpetuity. The National Trust hopes the National Heritage Fund will provide a further £12 million endowment to run the house.

Francis Scarsdale, the third Viscount, first visited Kedleston at the age of 35. He hardly knew his much older cousin Richard, the second Viscount, and only gradually came to realize that he would succeed to the title and estate. But he has now come to love it and there is a light in his eye when he speaks of Kedleston.

In 1970 he was invited by his cousin to become estate manager. It was a salaried business arrangement

and he moved, with his second wife and five children, into a house on the estate. Relations with the Hall remained formal rather than intimate. "The first thing I had to do when my cousin died was give myself the sack," he recalls.

It was in the mid-seventies that he allowed himself to be persuaded to a move which he now deeply regrets and which adds enormous complications to the heritage. Thinking of the future of Kedleston, and aware that if he were to die shortly after his cousin, double death duties could destroy it, he turned his inheritance into a trust. The beneficiaries of this trust are himself, (50 per cent), and his five children (10 per cent each). The device will halve the tax bill on his death, but the interests of all six beneficiaries must now be con-

sidered before disposal of any property.

Lord Scarsdale's eldest son, now aged 36, and his only daughter, have indicated that they are not interested in "saving" Kedleston but want their share in cash. His two youngest children are still minors and the protection of their rights raise baffling legal issues. The Trustees have applied to the Courts for guidance on the financial and legal problems but a hearing is not expected until June or July.

"The law gives a lot of weight to the wishes of a 30 per cent beneficiary," says Lord Scarsdale; but he adds with a sigh: "I hope neither of the children will contest what we want to do. If cash is what they want, we'll have to try and find it."

### NOSTELL PRIORY home of Lord St Oswald

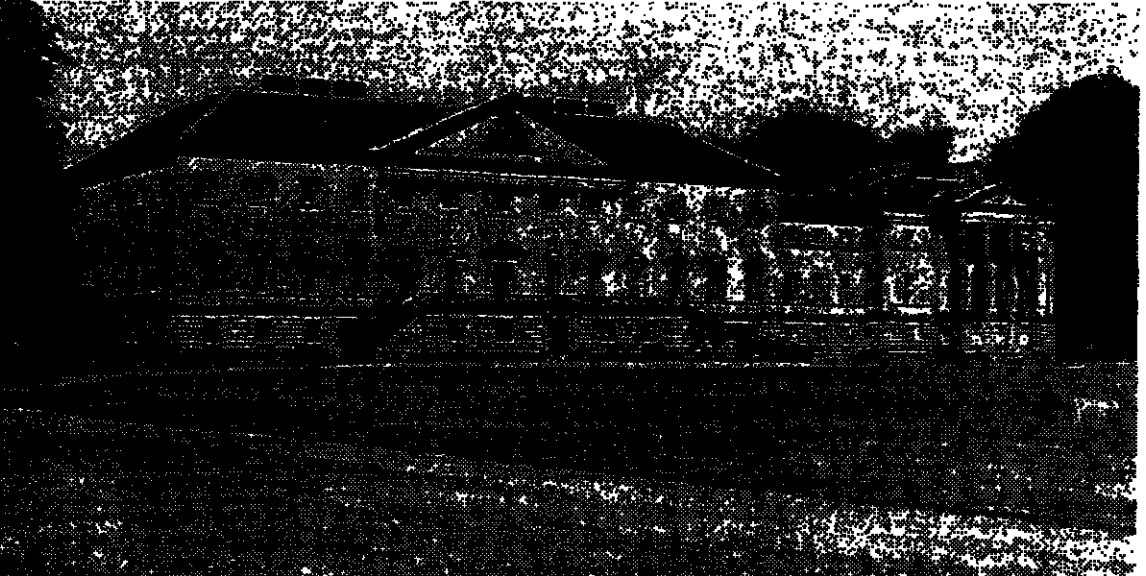


Nostell Priory in Yorkshire, seat of the fifth Baron St Oswald, is an oasis among the slagheaps and collieries of the mining district - a seam of one mine runs under the house.

It was given to the National Trust by his brother in 1953 after he succeeded to the title - in the teeth of family opposition because it reduced his aunt's and uncle's share in the inheritance. Rowland Winn, the fourth Baron, was war correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, briefly a Tory minister, a Euro MP, a rosegrower, a champion of Polish emigrants and a great party giver.

It was this last proclivity which led to his altercation with the National Trust. He had retained ownership of Nostell's contents and the right to live there, while the trust ran it. So vast was his electricity bill that the trust decided to close down the house and cut him off. The row ended with the Baron taking over the management of the house from the trust.

He died in December and was succeeded by his brother, whose career has included a stint in the Malayan police, 10 years in the film business and farming in Sussex and Yorkshire. The two brothers, who shared a house in London in recent



Palladian design: The magnificent building still contains the custom-made Chippendale furniture

years and ran the Nostell estate together, had given some attention to the tax problems of inheritance.

"Before my brother died, I cut myself out of the Nostell Settled Estate," the fifth Baron explains. "It goes straight to my son who is already farming at Nostell and gets married in April." Most of the contents of the house are exempt from tax because of their "national importance". Nevertheless, transfer tax has been assessed at £3.3 million. The only way it can be paid without destroying the family

income is in kind, by disposing of the Chippendale furniture, give it to the National Trust and leave it in place.

The main block of Nostell Priory was begun by Sir Rowland Winn in 1733 and is based on a design by Palladio for the Villa Mocenigo. His son employed Robert Adam to complete the house and Adam built the magnificent north wing and stable block.

The historic glory of Nostell, however, is the Chippendale furniture. It is one of three houses in

England where his accounts survive, and almost every piece can be identified. He was born nearby and is believed to have served his apprenticeship with the estate carpenters. A superb dolls' house is attributed to his hand.

If the furniture were put on the open market it would realize many times the St Oswald tax bill. It remains to be seen whether, and at what figure, the Heritage Fund succeeds in negotiating its transfer to the nation.

### WESTON PARK home of Lord Bradford



Weston Park stands on the edge of the industrial Midlands and the Bradford family are determined to turn it into a superb "leisure facility" for

jaded industrialists. The new Earl of Bradford had a successful career as a restaurateur in London before he succeeded his father in 1981, owning successively a caviar bar in Knightsbridge, Bewick's Restaurant in Wallon Street and Porters in Covent Garden.

But nothing in London could match the cuisine now available at Weston Park. With the slogan "Live Like a Lord", Bradford caters for weddings, seminars, lunches, dinners, shooting parties and residential courses. His gourmet dinners make the mouth water. Diners are received in the front hall, take drinks in the library or salon with the ground floor rooms open to view, eat dinner in the magnificent dining room and finally move back to the library for after-dinner drinks. "You can never reproduce in a restaurant or hotel the unique sense of history at Weston," says Lord Bradford.

Weston is a mellow, red-brick house built in the late 17th century and designed by the enterprising Lady Wilbraham, born Elizabeth



Maids in waiting: Staff in the First Salon

Mytton, who had inherited the estate. The house was altered and redecorated in the 19th century and again in the 1960s by the Dowager Countess who still lives in a flat on the top floor.

Two of the chief art treasures have been ceded to the nation in lieu of transfer tax following the death of the sixth Earl. Jacopo Bassano's "Way to Golgotha", a gift to Charles II from the people of Holland in 1660, and valued at £3m, has gone to the National Gallery. But it only cancelled out about £1m in tax, since tax is also levied on the picture itself. The Holbein drawing of Anne

Boleyn has gone to the British Museum. "We couldn't allow the position to go on drifting", Lord Bradford said. He still doesn't know what the final tax bill will be, but he expects it to be around £8 million.

The pictures, including Dutch cabinet paintings, fine series of Van Dycks, and rare Boucher tapestries woven at Gobelins, are the most interesting features of the interior.

The park, landscaped by Capability Brown, is an added attraction with two lakes, a Roman bridge, a Swiss Cottage, an obelisk, a Grecian mausoleum, a Gothic tower and a Temple of Diana. If that were not enough, the public can now enjoy a butterfly farm, a museum of country bygone, a woodland adventure playground, an aquarium, a pottery and one and a half miles of private railway.

Lord Bradford does not wish to hand over this thriving concern to the National Trust. He has already set up a charitable trust to which he intends transferring ownership of the house and park. He also intends to provide the trust with an endowment of about £3 million. He then hopes to persuade the government to take the important contents of the house to pay off his £8m tax bill, but to leave them in situ for the enjoyment of the public.

### TOMORROW

Chatsworth and Burghley - two great houses kept in the family

### FINDINGS

#### A-series reporting on research: PUBLIC OPINION

#### Top marks for schools

British education is tops. Who says so? The parents of primary and secondary school children, that's who. In a MORI survey reported in this month's *British Public Opinion Newsletter*, a sub-sample of the parents out of a national sample of 1,057 adults in 55 constituencies conducted in February said it was so.

Fifty-four per cent rated as "excellent/very good" the education of their children at primary school as did 44 per cent of those whose children attended secondary school. Only 7 per cent of parents of primary school children and 10 per cent of parents of secondary school children said they rated the education of their children as "poor" or "very poor". Presented with 15 areas of criticism at primary level, and 18 at secondary level, only 36 per cent of parents of primary school children said they had no complaints as did 22 per cent of parents of secondary school children.

The most prevalent complaint among parents of primary school children were "too many pupils in class" (23 per cent), "not enough teaching of the basics, maths, spelling and grammar" (18 per cent), "poor school meals" (16 per cent), "not enough discipline" (11 per cent), "not told enough about your child's progress/activities" (11 per cent). Parents of secondary school children were more likely to complain about not enough discipline (28 per cent) and also not enough

teaching of the basics (24 per cent) and too many pupils in class (21 per cent). But one in five of secondary school children's parents complained that their offspring were not prepared for life after school.

#### Bathroom secrets

Nearly 25 million baths and 17 million showers are taken every day in Britain's homes and, according to a telephone survey of 1,520 adults by audience selection for Cussons, men



average 26 minutes in the bath and women 24 minutes. The report calculates that by the age of 65 the one-bath-a-day man (admittedly only 15 per cent of the population) will have spent 428 days of his life in the water, his female counterpart will have spent 395 days. Apparently there are 4 per cent who say they bath less than weekly.

#### Half-term report

With the ending of the miners' strike, the political stalemate seems to have been broken. Last summer Labour was three points ahead of the Conservatives in spite of the strike. But then the conference

season began, amid a fairly fractious Labour Conference was followed by the Conservative's and the Brighton bombings, and the Tories went into the lead by a full 9 per cent, at 44 per cent (their level at the last general election). Labour was at 35 per cent, seven points above the abyssal 28 per cent they had received in June 1983. Thus the Tories were the same, Labour up seven and the Alliance down six last October, and they stayed there, more or less, until recently.

But in the past few weeks, especially since the end of the miners' strike, the Tories have been on the slide. Forty-two per cent in January, 39 per cent in February and 36 per cent in our March poll for *The Standard*. Labour's gone from 34 per cent in January to 40 per cent in March, up six, while the Alliance has come up two points as well.

This has clearly rattled the Tories, put heart into Labour and hope into the Alliance. Because the local elections in May will be compared to 1981, when Labour was doing relatively well and the Alliance had just begun, the Alliance expected to capture seats, the Conservatives to stay more or less the same and Labour to lose seats. As a test of national opinion, however, these will need to be analysed carefully. An analysis of the most recent MORI poll shows about 10 per cent swing to Labour in the areas where local elections are being held next month, almost identical to elsewhere. The

rather than at set times" and the other half of those with a view taking the opposite stance. Many men in the sample rejected salads as "proper" meals. It was quite clear that the traditional "meat and two veg" is the essence of the proper meal.



Another poll recently published also measured people's attitudes to food, eating and

diet by MORI for the Meat and Livestock Executive. Taste came top of the poll as the factor most people said is important to them in choosing the food they buy and eat. Although 2 per cent said that taste was not important, 82 per cent said they thought taste "very" important. Value for money (74 per cent) came second. Only 12 per cent said that being part of a weight watching diet was very important in their choice of food.

#### Robert M Worcester

The author is chairman of MORI. Details of fieldwork dates and sample sizes are reported in *British Public Opinion Newsletter*, published by the firm.

#### Make a meal of it

Three people in a hundred say their English breakfast is their main meal. Nearly one third have their main meal at midday but three-fifths call it lunch and the rest call it dinner. Tea is the main meal for one person in five (21 per cent) and dinner (evenings) is the main meal for 30 per cent of the British public. "Dinner" is more often used to mean an evening meal although Sunday dinner is widely used and tends to mean the midday meal, according to J. Walter Thompson's Stephen King in the March issue of *Admap*. The family meal isn't dead but Sundays are the only days on which the activities tend to revolve around the main meal. On weekdays meals are made to fit in round the day's activities.

The British public is evenly split with half of those with a view agreeing that "it's best just to eat when you're hungry."

#### CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 619)

ACROSS	1 Drifts (5)	12 Strategic (8)	16 Unconsciousness (6)
2 Prudent (7)	13 Savage (4)	14 Haemoglobin deficiency (7)	19 Giant hunter (5)
3 Council chief (5)	14 Saints biography (11)	15 Long-billed wader (6)	20 Music words (4)
4 Ethiopian language (7)	17 Calf flesh (4)		
5 Broken chord (8)	18 Funeral call (4,4)		
6 Solace (7)	21 Lacrimatory spray (4,3)		
7 Intelligent ape (5)	22 Passenger ship (5)		
8 Down			
1 Australian marsupial (6)			
2 Mixed fried food (3,3)			
3 Muslim harem (8)			
4 Cannibalistic insect (7,6)			
5 Glass oven (4)			
6 Stain (7)			
7 Droning insect (6)			

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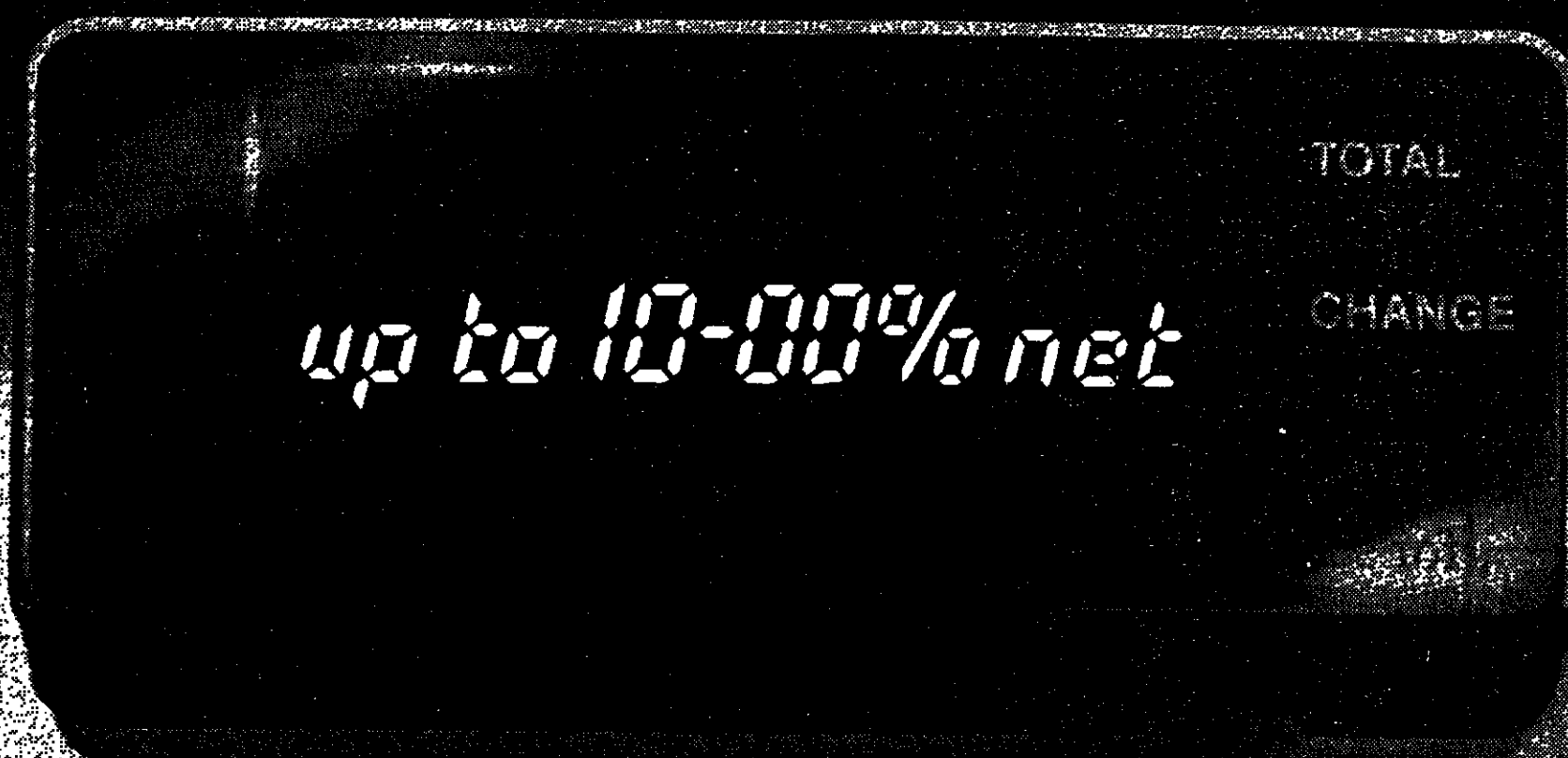
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THE TIMES DIARY

PSs from T.S.

T. S. Eliot's second wife Valerie has just repossessed the manuscript of the long-awaited first volume of her husband's letters, which outlines his first marriage to Viv and the writing of *The Waste Land*. There is no bitterness in her action, however. Anthony Evans, chairman of Faber, who had hoped to publish this autumn, tells me a cache of Eliot letters had just been found in New York, and she insisted they should be included. A few hours after speaking to me yesterday, Evans rang back - another cache had popped up in Paris. At this rate, will the book ever meet its new deadline of early next year?

Stand-in, and out

The appointment by Leon Brittan of Lincro College don David Coleman as his special adviser (Coleman just happened to have spoken in favour of Mrs T during the debate over her honorary Oxford doctorate) has wrong-footed Tory campaigners in Oxfordshire. Coleman was to have been a candidate in the county elections on May 2, after Brittan's untimely passing. They just managed to persuade Mrs Mary Proudfoot, a local pensioner, to stand. Unfortunately Mrs P had previously booked a Mediterranean holiday and canvassers in the seat - a marginal - have not seen her since April 1.

Colour conscious

To commemorate four years of GLC Labour rule, the Red Flag will fly over County Hall for a week from May Day. If Ken & Co do not have a Red Flag of their own they could perhaps borrow Islington's spare one. The People's Republic say it is kept "in case the regular flag fades to pink."

After Edna O'Brien and Richard Braunsell, *The Guardian* has recruited another personality for its television commercials. The Boase Mavlin Pollitt advertising agency plans to fly in from America none other than former *Times* and *Sunday Times* editor Harold Evans.

All change

Mrs Gwen Ball is a pensioner in Leominster who likes to take the weekly bus into Hereford, as Leominster pensioners do. Last week she was featured, thanking the driver, in one of those interminable political broadcasts on behalf of the Tories. What the programme failed to mention is that Mrs Ball is treasurer of the local Tory constituency association. Nor did it point out that the bus in question was on the road to Hereford, not on the way to Hereford, and not the route Mrs Ball ordinarily follows.



Barry Fantoni

Dining service

The great and powerful of the land - Fleet Street editors and proprietors, diverse dukes and lords, generals, field marshals and Peregrine Worst-horne - have been invited to lunch at Boodle's today. Their host is Ireland's premier baron, Lord Kingsale, who also happens to be unemployed and reduced to village Mr Fxit in Nunney in Somerset to make ends meet. Lord Kingsale, ex-Irish Guards, ex-bingo-caller and ex-safari park driver, heads a group of West Country die-hards who are financing the lunch. Their purpose? To advocate the reintroduction of national service to take the young off the dole queues. "Something for the poor little devils to do," says Lord Kingsale.

Don't call me...

After claims by former MI6 agent Gary Murray that telephones at the National Council for Civil Liberties offices in London are bugged, the NCCL now believes the offices are illegally fitted with US-made telephone equipment. The suspect system was identified by a former British Telecom engineer after Murray "swept" the premises for bugs last month, following allegations of surveillance on 20/20 *vision*. A private eye who is an expert on bugging tells me the tiny bare wires - as described to me by NCCL general secretary Larry Gostin - can be used for sophisticated tapping techniques. "Just like you see in the movies," they permit eavesdropping at the receiver end rather than the usual route through the telephone exchange. BT has records of installing standard Herald Call Connect equipment there in December 1981. Two new extensions were added last March. Gostin, who has just received the engineer's report, is now writing to Mrs Thatcher and BT, which promises to investigate.

As Parliament resumes, Peter Kellner looks at Labour's prospects

Can Kinnock keep going?

Neil Kinnock is having a good spring. His critics on the left have been humbled by the end of the miners' strike and discussion over uncapping. Labour has regained the lead in the opinion polls; a reform-minded general secretary, Larry Whitty, is about to take over at headquarters; and the party's most professional campaign in living memory, on jobs and industry, has been successfully launched.

Yet Kinnock knows full well how fragile the recovery could prove to be. Over the next 12 months a series of trade union ballots on the political levy will determine whether the party enters the next election solvent or bankrupt. The Government's popularity may recover. The Liberal/SDP Alliance could win some spectacular by-elections and again syphon off a large share of the anti-Tory vote. Any let alone all of these events would threaten to expose once more Labour's continuing fundamental weaknesses.

Kinnock's task is not just to spruce up the party's image and hope to reap political advantage from the Government's failure to reduce unemployment. It is to reverse a 30-year decline. In 1951 Labour secured the votes of 40 per cent of the total electorate (including those who did not vote). By 1983 that figure had been halved to 20 per cent.

1983 saw the most dramatic collapse of Labour's support. However, most of that 20-point decline had already occurred by 1979. In only one general election since 1951 - Harold Wilson's victory in 1966 - did Labour's vote as a percentage of the total electorate rise.

Not only has Labour's total vote shrunk; the party has been driven out of areas which used to have Labour MPs in abundance. In 1945 Labour won 190 seats in the North, Scotland and Wales, and 139 in London and the South. By 1983 Labour's share of Northern, Scottish and Welsh seats had fallen by only 20 per cent to 151, while its share in London and the South had collapsed almost 80 per cent to 39.

One month of good opinion poll figures cannot conceal from Kinnock or Whitty the fundamental character of Labour's weaknesses, or the magnitude of the task they face to overcome them. That task can be divided into three components: ideology, programme and structure. Not the least of the party leadership's problems is to dispel various myths that surround all three.

The central fact about Labour's ideology is that it does not have one. Its very name suggests an instrumental rather than ideological purpose, whereas Labour's sister parties in Europe all have "ideological" names - socialist or social democrat.

Even Clause Four does not provide an ideology. For one thing, it is full of weasel words ("... the most equitable distribution thereof that may be possible... the best obtainable system of popular administration... etc). For another, it has never supplied any motive force for the policies of any of the three post-war Labour governments.

When they have nationalized industries they have generally done so for pragmatic rather than ideological reasons. When the party has been in opposition Labour's more left-wing supporters, like its right-wing enemies, have always pretended that a future Labour government would be socialist, in some definable, ideological sense. That has always been nonsense.

Labour's ideology is, in fact, an empty box. The party's problems flow not from the fact that there are nasties inside threatening to escape, but that there is nothing inside, and all sorts of nasties trying to get in.



Peter Kellner after Milais' 'Bubbles'

The point about a party with an ideology is that it provides it with various defences against intruders: the ideology defines the frontiers of acceptable political beliefs and, by implication, acceptable political behaviour. Labour's body has lacked the immunity system that a coherent ideology could provide.

This lack of ideology has had another serious consequence. It has impeded the party's task of devising a coherent programme.

By "programme" I mean something more than immediate policies and something less than ideology. For example, Mrs Thatcher's ideology is free-market capitalism, her programme is privatization and lower taxation, her policy is to sell off British Airways and raise income tax thresholds. Successfully applied, a party's programme provides a bridgehead between its short-term decisions and its long-term goals.

Not only has Labour never had an agreed ideology, it has seldom had an agreed programme. 1945 was an exception in fact; 1964 an exception in appearance. (Wilson's "programme" was to create a modern, high-tech economy, using public policy as the engine for change. It turned out to be an illusion; but at the time he convinced enough people that he meant it.)

Most of what passes as ideological dispute within the Labour Party is in fact an unresolved debate about its programme; that is, medium-term political strategies are debated rather than ultimate goals. Take Roy Hattersley's series of speeches in recent months about the economic and financial strategy of a future Labour government. They are among the most radical of any leading Labour figure for many years. In theoretical terms, Hattersley is now well to the left of Kinnock.

Yet colleagues (like his shadow cabinet colleagues) lack an ideology by which he can justify his programme, so he relates his ideas to short-term, pragmatic demands.

such as bringing down unemployment and making sure the financial institutions lend sufficiently to British enterprises.

These are important and worthwhile ambitions; but what Hattersley does not do is provide a vision of his ideal socialist society. And in the absence of an ideological perspective, it is open to question his motives: is he in the business (as he says) of transforming society, or is he really up to the old Labour trick of trying to make capitalism work better?

Put another way, is it Labour's programme to roll back private ownership of the means of production, exchange and distribution in principle, driven by an ideological, socialist imperative, or is it to accept the idea of the mixed economy as a good thing in itself, and to devise a form of socialism that pursues other objectives, such as greater equality of wealth and greater distribution of economic power, within a mixed economy? The dilemma has not only never been settled; it has not been properly debated except in terms of slogans.

Labour's 1983 manifesto - portrayed both by its advocates and its critics as the most left-wing in modern times - was in fact the product of a party bereft of both ideology and programme. Its length, implausibility, confusion and incoherence derived not from its socialism but from its pragmatism: it set out the terms of a truce among the party's factions. Even if the truce had not broken down (over Poles), the manifesto would have been an electoral liability.

Naturally the Conservatives claimed the manifesto was "extremist". The truth is that it was a shambles. Compare this with the Tory manifesto: coy about both ideology and specific policies, but with a strong and coherent programme and theme.

Deficiencies in ideology and programme could be overcome in the short term if Labour's structure

were healthy; unfortunately it is not. At one level, there is nothing new about observing this weakness. Thirty years ago Harold Wilson described Transport House as a "penny-farthing" machine in the age of jet travel. There is clearly something strange in the fact that the Labour Party employs fewer full-time staff than Militant.

But other factors compensate for Labour's financial weakness. As long as it remains one of the two major parties it will receive, free, equal broadcasting time with the Conservatives during election campaigns. This immediately distinguishes British from American election politics: parties here don't need money to anything like the same degree to fight elections. Money and staff are important at the margin, but more than that, Labour's financial and staffing weaknesses are, rather, the symptoms of a deeper structural crisis.

The most debilitating features of Labour's structure are the way it encourages factional dissent, exaggerates the power of well-organized minorities and looks undemocratic to the electorate. Much has been made of Militant's secretiveness. This has undoubtedly damaged Labour, but to blame the party's problems on hidden conspiracies misses the point. The harm done by the 1981 deputy leadership contest had little or nothing to do with Tony Benn's more shadowy supporters; it was done by the very clarity, length and openness of the battle.

In the 1940s and 1950s the party's internal battles were settled in the most undemocratic way possible: right-wing union leaders formed a coalition with the party leadership to marginalize dissent. Those party union links have now become a 'liability' - although, paradoxically, one result of this year's political fund-ballots (if they go well for Labour) will be to restore the legitimacy of the links.

Even so, the combination of (a) the caucus structure of constituency parties, (b) the decline in individual membership (in part a general consequence of a decline in mass social activity, including going to the cinema, football matches or union branch meetings), and (c) the fragmentation during the past decade of the Marxist left has made Labour vulnerable to destabilizing internal conflict. The specific threats to the party's leadership are no longer as great today as they were two or three years ago; certainly Militant is now in decline. But the vulnerability remains.

One exercise that Kinnock had embarked on - with his own staff at Westminster working with the research staff at Walworth Road in a degree of harmony rare by the party's normal standards - is the preparation of a document defining Labour's concept of "democratic socialism". It started out as a tactic in the fight against Militant. It has become an exercise in which the deficiencies of Labour's ideology, programme and structure have all had to be considered.

By July the document - likely to run to about 10,000 words - will go to the national executive. In October it will be debated at Labour's annual conference in Bournemouth. Assuming, as we confidently may, that it is approved, and assuming (with rather less confidence) that the exercise goals Labour into tackling its fundamental problems, then the messy, irritating war with Militant will at least have done some good: it will have forced the party, at long last, to be honest with itself about what it stands for, how it functions and where it is going.

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The author is political editor of the New Statesman.

Anne Sofer

Prune away the backwoods

Sir Douglas Wass, writing on this page recently, suggested the establishment of a standing royal commission, with its own staff, to investigate matters of public concern, either at the request of the government or on its own initiative. This last provision was particularly important, he said, because there were many matters of public concern which it was not in the government's interest to have investigated. The two examples he gave were electoral reform and reform of the House of Lords.

I agree that both are important; yet it is interesting that the arguments for the former become stronger and more widely accepted as those for the latter recede. Is reform of the House of Lords a popular rallying cry? Decidedly not: yet this is most peculiar since the institution is assuredly the most bizarrely anachronistic surviving in any democratic country. One even has the impression that its standing is higher now than it has been at any time since the war - if not earlier.

I can think of four possible reasons. First, illogical though it may seem, some of the current popularity of the Royal Family seems to rub off on the aristocracy. "Abolition of the House of Lords" sounds like a perilously slippery slope leading to "Abolition of the Monarchy" and red revolution. A hands-off attitude develops, even towards any proposal for the reform of the second chamber (which might in fact strengthen it) rather than its abolition.

Second, with the growth of the number of life peers, House of Lords activists are, increasingly, distinguished figures in their own right, frequently well-known politicians from the recent past. Seeing them on television, being so charming and mazy together, appeals to the British sense of history and continuity - almost like watching a BBC drama documentary series on "Great British Prime Ministers".

Third, the House of Lords is the only significant British institution to have got the better of the present prime minister, or at least to have done so publicly. Opinion polls demonstrate that people are worried by her autocratic ways, and so a source of resistance, even one with such precarious democratic credentials, is seen as a good thing.

And fourth, there is the odd fact that, by coincidence, the current active membership of the House of Lords reflects the political views of the voters far more closely than does the current membership of the House of Commons. The Tories in the House of Lords cannot be sure of a majority since they command less than 30 per cent of the active membership. Similarly, the Opposition is not dominated by the Labour Party, since the Alliance has more than 30 peers.

But, it is worth repeating, these figures represent only active membership, the 480 or so peers who attend debates regularly. More than 300 others, mostly hereditary, have taken their seats but hardly ever turn

up. And why should they? The accident of birth is no guarantee of a taste for politics, and no doubt they have better things to do when they are in London.

The whole picture changes when efforts are made to pull in this inactive membership to vote, as happened last June when the Lords debated the Paving Bill on GLC abolition. The balance between Conservatives and Opposition, shifts sharply in favour of the former. But it is a delicate and even somewhat ludicrous exercise for the Government to engage in. Their lords have to be cajoled rather than whipped, and when they have voted once they are likely to want to go straight home. (This was how the Government came unstuck last summer. The "backwoods vote", having done its duty, was not prepared to hang around while the Paving Bill went through the committee stage as well.)

The figures for the vote on the main debate on that Bill are revealing. The Government won by 237 votes to 217: 207 Conservatives, 29 crossbenchers and one Liberal against 109 Labour, 30 Liberals, 29 Social Democrats, 34 crossbenchers, seven Conservatives, seven bishops and one communist. Lobbyists working for the GLC have analysed the vote in two further respects. If the only regular attenders had voted, the Government would have lost by 162 to 181. And if only life peers had voted, the Government would have lost by 61 to 149.

It is this last set of figures that makes Sir Douglas Wass's recommendation compelling. The serious justification for a second chamber is that there should be a body of respected public figures to reconsider legislation and, if necessary, advise the Government to think again. An appointed body can just about perform this role credibly, particularly if it acts with the grain of public opinion, though a largely elected one would have more authority. An unelected, unappointed, uninterested and unperfunctory one can command no respect.

Today the main bill to abolish the GLC and the metropolitan counties receives its second reading in the Lords. The temper of the majority regularly attending peers is decidedly lukewarm about this precipitate and insufficiently deliberated measure; left to themselves, they would probably pass a reasoned opposition amendment. Yet it seems likely that the same thing will happen as happened last year. A few dozen noble lords, who have inherited the right to participate in the legislative process but have so little interest that they rarely turn up to exercise it, will again be dragged to Westminster and stroll convulsively through the Government lobby with no other purpose than to make sure that fourteen million of their fellow citizens will no longer have a metropolitan council to vote for.

Say it again, Sir Douglas.

The author is SDP member of the GLC (HLEA for St Pancras North).

moreover... Miles Kington

Behind the great Hoxha hoax

For forty years Albanian specialist Adrian Traditi has been waiting to be asked to write a tribute to the late Enver Hoxha. This is his big moment.

Thank you. Actually, I don't want to write about the late Enver Hoxha at all, as I now believe that he never existed, but about Albania itself. Forty years of constant study, and smoking rough Albanian cigarettes, have convinced me that the country of Albania holds the secret to future world peace. This is a bold claim, but let me spell out my reasons.

First of all, it must be made clear that Albania is not a country like other countries. It does not need tourists. It has little outside trade. It is not famous for anything, except perhaps for not being friends with anybody. Albania has no friends, and when it did have friends it took steps to get rid of them. It has dismissed the Chinese as allies and has rejected Soviet Russia as being an imperialist power. America, of course, it has never come close to, and with Britain it does not even have diplomatic relations. It is almost as if Albania wished to put everyone's back up.

Now, why should a country want to do this? For twenty years, I must confess, I was totally baffled by Albanian attitudes. I wrote many letters to people in Albania, I arranged many visits to the country, and talked to many people who had been there. The significant thing was that not one of my letters was answered, none of my visits was permitted to take place and not one of the people who had been there could remember anything about the country. I couldn't help feeling that Albania didn't want to know.

The only sure thing known about the country was that the people there had impossible names. Enver Hoxha? Who could really have a name like that? The new man in charge is reputed to be called Ramiz Alia. Where did they get names like that from? It was almost as if names in Albania were created from letters left over in some awful game of Scrabble, that Albania was some kind of joke.

Twenty years ago I came to the conclusion that Albania was some kind of joke, probably invented by a writer with a quirky sense of humour like Kurt Vonnegut Jr. I immediately wrote to Mr Vonnegut asking him if he had invented Albania. He wrote back to say, Yes, but would I please not tell anyone else because he wanted to see how long the joke would run for.

I now realize that I was hoodwinked by Mr Vonnegut's quirky sense of humour. For twenty long years I have given lectures, written articles and gone on television to tell people that Albania was a joke creation. They have been twenty wasted years. But at last I have seen the blinding truth about Albania, thanks to, of all writers, Saki.

I don't know if you have ever read his short story about a group of people who go on an ocean cruise. They are all married couples with the exception of one attractive, middle-aged lady who is by herself. Nobody seems to know who invited her, but there she is, a single person to whom all the men are very attentive. The wives, of course, see her as a terrible threat and band together to make sure that she causes no damage to the yacht-borne community. It only transpires afterwards that the men had deliberately invited her on board in order to unite all the wives against her; that she was the cause of their peaceful coexistence.

As soon as I read this story, I saw the truth about Albania. It has often been said, has it not, that there is one cause of the world will only unite in one cause: against an extra-terrestrial threat. I now believe that Albania is a country created by and inhabited by extra-terrestrial beings, who have come to unite the rest of us against them. Only this explains why they reject us all. Only this explains why we all feel the same way about Albania, if about nothing else. And only this explains their stupid names. They are names from another solar system.

That is why I do not believe that Enver Hoxha exists - or at least, I believe he has been relieved of his tour of duty and gone back to the planet whence he came. But the important thing is that we must all unite against Albania, this monstrous Stalinist backwater, because it represents something that we can all - Russians, Chinese, Americans - get equally worked up about. Somebody from outer space has had the wit to give the world a unifying factor. Let us not waste it. Let us talk about disarming - let us talk about training all our rockets on Albania! Only this way can the peace of the world...

(Mr Adrian Traditi is now undergoing a rest cure somewhere in the country. He will be back again when Mr Ramiz Alia is ousted from office, or goes back to his own planet.)

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Howe's new East-West pattern

Warsaw It was irresistible copy - a script for Carol Reed. But the secret meeting between senior Foreign Office officials and Czech dissidents, while Sir Geoffrey Howe was being entertained by his official Czechoslovak host in the Seven Angels wine cellar, was only the most spectacular of the contacts with unofficial people which were a hallmark of his East European tour. In East Berlin it was a low-key encounter with a few representatives of the Protestant churches and one or two nonconforming literati. In Warsaw, it was a private discussion with five leading opposition figures, including Solidarity's former national press spokesman and the chairman of the dissolved journalists' association, during a reception at the British ambassador's residence.

These meetings were only one part of the agenda which Sir Geoffrey immediately placed on respect for human rights and the importance of contacts with the peoples as well as with the governments of Eastern Europe. The accent was equally clear in his three formal keynote speeches and, above all, in his visit to the grave of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, Poland's martyred priest and Solidarity's patron saint. A precedent for this was set last November by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Office minister, one Solidarity adviser asked Sir Geoffrey to convey special thanks to him.

Now the Foreign Secretary's clearly programmatic tour has demonstrated beyond doubt that Britain has a coherent policy towards Eastern Europe. This British *Capitolink* is distinguished from West Germany's by its public recognition of the fact that Eastern Europe does not merely consist of communist regimes and by taking seriously the human rights provisions of the Helsinki Final Act, alongside the two more obvious goals of improving East-West relations in general and bilateral relations in particular.

Sir Geoffrey attached equal importance to these three goals in his official talks, but he can hardly



After meeting General Jaruzelski, a gesture to the Polish people: Sir Geoffrey pays homage to the murdered priest

be surprised that the first has attracted most attention. Moreover, his own personal qualities seem particularly well suited to this kind of diplomacy. Communist leaders can often resemble a pneumatic drill in their relentless repetition of prepared lines, but Sir Geoffrey drills right back. At the same time, he managed to report those quite unusual, and even exciting, unofficial encounters as if they were the most normal, and even boring, thing in the world, which of course they should be. This was curiously effective.

All the unofficial East German, Czech and Polish participants I have talked to were impressed and encouraged by these private discussions, which consisted mainly in their explaining their views in response to questions from the British delegation. Most of them

commented that the delegation seemed remarkably well informed. But one Czech participant confided that a senior British official was visibly surprised to learn that Mrs Thatcher is very popular in Czechoslovakia.

How could the Czechs know what she's like? The British official apparently asked, "Through the BBC and Voice of America" came the reply. Through the same channels, and through West German television, for most East Germans, the people of these countries will have learned exactly what Sir Geoffrey said and did, even though most of it has not appeared in their official media.

In Czechoslovakia and Poland (but not in East Germany) the Foreign Secretary's unofficial interlocutors contrast this British *Capitolink* very favourably with those of West

Germany and Austria. But they emphasize that this policy will bear fruit only if all Western official visitors, including those from Bonn and Vienna, make a habit of meeting independent representatives of these societies.

Yet obviously the prospects for developing such good habits must depend to some extent on the reaction of the communist authorities. All Sir Geoffrey's host governments were unhappy about this side of his programme - but some were more unhappy than others. The Czechoslovak authorities were probably most annoyed - particularly over the sensational British press coverage - but the Husak regime is anyway the one from which the least is to be expected. The East German authorities were perhaps least upset, since the Protestant Church is a kind of "loyal opposition" to which they themselves talk regularly.

Poland was somewhere in between. On the one hand, Polish ministers and officials boycotted the reception at which Sir Geoffrey met opposition representatives, and official press coverage of his stay was not extensive. On the other hand General Jaruzelski spent two and a quarter hours in a wide-ranging and unpolemical discussion with Sir Geoffrey, although he knew in advance that the Foreign Secretary would go on to meet Solidarity advisers and visit Father Popieluszko's grave - a gesture of far more immediate political importance than anything Sir Geoffrey could do anywhere else in Eastern Europe.

In other words, the Polish government accepted Britain's terms for the visit. Perhaps it has finally understood that these are the only terms on which a British foreign secretary could today justify such a visit to British public opinion. What is more, Mr Stefan Olszowski, the foreign minister, suggested to Sir Geoffrey that Britain might now take a "leading position" in Poland's relations with Western Europe. If the terms are understood, Polish public opinion might even agree with Mr Olszowski.

Timothy Garton Ash

Handwritten note: 1550





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## TRUMPET CALL

At the start of the Foreign Secretary's Eastern European tour he described the 1975 Helsinki agreement, and in particular its human rights provisions, as the "trumpet call" which could help to bring down the walls which divide Europe. His trip purported to cover the two other ingredients of east-west European relations - the need for progress on arms control measures and more trade. But its historical significance will lie entirely in the fact that, for the first time, a British Foreign Secretary - let alone a European Foreign Minister - has made it abundantly clear that any serious improvement in arms control and economic development with the Soviet bloc depends fundamentally on advances in human freedoms within that system.

Since the tenth anniversary of Helsinki falls this August, Sir Geoffrey's visit has a decisive role to play. It should make certain that the anniversary is not simply an occasion for mutual east-west congratulations. It most certainly does not deserve to be so. There needs to be a concerted allied campaign to restore some dignity to that much abused agreement, whose abuses were not properly put right at the previous review conferences in Belgrade and Madrid. In the process we must re-establish the correct and only basis on which an east-west dialogue can be conducted.

That basis has been eroded ever since the Soviet leadership propounded its theory of "peaceful co-existence". The West fell into the trap then of thinking that, provided we could mount a token military defence against Soviet armed threats, we did not have to worry about the Soviet intention - never disguised - to continue to wage an ideological war against us. The weakness of the West throughout this period, whose high point was the so-called "detente" of the 1970s, was that we entirely forfeited the initiative in this battle for ideas and freedom to the other side's relentless use of non-military techniques of subversion, intimidation and disinformation abroad, coupled with all the familiar and unchanging instruments of tyranny at home.

So, though the Soviet system is obviously not faultless, its weaknesses were never actively exploited by the West. The attitude of the liberal democracies has been entirely passive. It has been to hope that the manifest advantages of democracy, freedom under the law, and the natural human rights, would somehow survive even in the Soviet Union and even in the face of active Soviet measures to deny their subjects access to such privileges.

The high point of this idealism was at Helsinki in 1975. There the Soviet Union hoped to achieve an endorsement for its legitimacy in the post-war structure of Europe, conferring some kind of international acceptance of its pre-war and post-war seizure of territory in the Baltic, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Finland. Theoretically the trade off for the West was to be through the basket of human rights provisions leading to a greater flow of people and ideas across the continent and thus breaking down the barriers erected by Soviet tyranny.

The nature of this exchange was that the West would thereafter possess a theoretical lever which could enable it to monitor progress on human rights issues and thus mark any shortcoming in those fields by invoking the threat to European security involved in such a shortcoming. Naturally any revision of European security would have had to include a revision of those articles at Helsinki which the Soviet leaders had already presented to their people as full and final legitimisation of their hegemony over east Europe. If that was the theory, the West has never possessed sufficient determination to use it by, for instance, suggesting that violation of human rights should have automatically entailed some counter-play within Europe.

In his BBC interview yesterday Sir Geoffrey referred to the serious shortcomings in the human rights performance of the Eastern bloc, of which the Berlin Wall and religious persecution were two of the most conspicuous. Yet at Madrid, west European delegations seemed most reluctant to press these criticisms home, in case they should be demanding "too much of the Soviets".

Such an attitude is carried to excess in West Germany, whose leaders, not least Herr Genscher, the Foreign Minister, might learn from Sir Geoffrey's most recent example, though Herr Genscher has a far more formidable counter-pull to overcome in the personality of his President,

Herr Carl-Friedrich von Weizsäcker.

When the president of West Germany can say that a policy which points out that the greatest power system next door is evil is not "a policy of peace even if its moral judgments are correct" he is arguing for the suspension of moral judgment in the face of military power. He is thus subordinating morality to fashionable abstraction, the contemporary notion of peace.

Perhaps that is why Herr Genscher has not hitherto been able to behave like Sir Geoffrey in his dealings with the Poles. Perhaps it is why West German attitudes to their East German fellow countrymen are based on a tacit acceptance of the East's lot - an acceptance of the need to mitigate and where possible tolerate the circumstances of their lives under the Eastern tyranny, but not officially to strive to point out that it is life under a tyranny and, with all its imprisonments, intolerable and these tensions are not confined to East Germany or Poland. The Soviet Union is the world's largest colonial empire, containing one hundred and thirty nationalities many of whom resist the idea of Russian tyranny and particularly in the Baltic states and the Western Ukraine.

Of course the Soviet Union also has its levers to distract the West from human rights preoccupation. There are said to be three hundred thousand West German jobs linked to Eastern bloc business. American entrepreneurs looking for contracts in the East are only too easily turned into lobby fodder on Capitol Hill. Lawyers, journalists, diplomats, trade unionists and European businessmen whose natural interests lie in "mutual exchanges" are not the kind of people to regard human rights deprivation as important enough grounds for prejudicing the official rituals of "good relations". It was pointed out last week at the Sakharov hearings in London that there appears to be a deliberate refusal in the West to recognise that the only contact possible with Soviet citizens is with those who have been carefully screened beforehand for their known reliability and subservience to the regime.

So "good relations" are seen to be of paramount diplomatic importance, higher than the preservation of our own values, higher apparently than the deprivation of freedom under the law for those citizens who are denied it in contravention of explicit international agreements which we have concluded with their governments.

The Soviet system continues to jam our broadcasts, often up to a peak of eighty per cent. It imprisons the Helsinki monitoring groups. It denies freedom of travel. It inhibits the communication of ideas and the publication of books. It interferes with post and telecommunications. It does not comply even with the rules of its own domestic law, let alone those articles internationally concluded at Helsinki.

Before the tenth anniversary, and in full preparation for the next review conference at Ottawa, the West should present the Soviet bloc with an ultimatum demanding immediate compliance with these human rights provisions. The threat behind this ultimatum should be a suggestion that the human rights shortcomings, if not remedied, would lead to a revision of all those provisions dealing with Europe's post war borders. Of course this would induce a bad atmosphere and the threat of it might indeed sour relations even at Geneva. But, as we have seen, an obsession with "good relations" is not a sound basis on which to pursue a viable system of mutual security since it is not weapons which create threats but the minds behind the weapons.

Perhaps the last word on this subject is most appropriately to be found with Dr Sakharov, still in exile at Gorky, who many years ago warned of the threat that would result from the Western world unilaterally disarming and helplessly facing "our uncontrollable bureaucratic apparatus". He thought that such a threat would "mean cultivation and encouragement of a closed country, where everything that happens may be shielded from outside eyes, a country wearing a mask that hides its true face. I would not wish it on anyone to live next to such a neighbour, especially if he is at the same time armed to the teeth. I think most of the political leaders in the West understand the situation, at least the Helsinki conference seemed to suggest an awareness that rapprochement must be associated with simultaneous liquidation of Soviet isolation". Sir Geoffrey has sounded the first note on the trumpet. Will the others follow?

## Painful flaw in a poll tax scheme

From Mr A. R. Isserlis

Sir, Your April 10 leading article's justified scepticism about a poll tax did not, I suggest, sufficiently underline one important psychological imperfection which that tax shares with the domestic rate (as also with the vehicle excise duty and with the happily now defunct tax on owner-occupiers). The ability to pay such levies is only putative rather than evident; liability is based on notional rather than actual resources; and this must add sharp resentment to the dull pain which all taxation necessarily and desirably inflicts.

By contrast, other kinds of taxation - for example, on incomes or on purchases - are accepted, however grudgingly, because they tap demonstrably available funds to transit.

You are therefore right in implying that if rates are to be replaced, it is to a tax based on cash flow, rather than on not-necessarily-realizable value, that the Government should be looking. But not a local duplication of PAYE or VAT. That would merely confuse business and hamper national economic management. Better, instead, perhaps, scrap the new largely phony insurance element in our welfare funding, and use the opportunity thus created to introduce a local payroll tax borne equally by employers and workers - thereby also providing a much better measure than rates afford of localities' differing needs for national subvention.

The unwaged poor would then, rightly, be free of local taxation - as indeed many of them already are. Better-off pensioners and the idle rich could make their contribution through appropriately enhanced national income tax, which under any system would still have to fund the smoothing-out of local resource differentials but a local payroll tax in operation would not have to do so to anything like the present extent.

The DOE must have some such scheme in their archives. I hope they will bring it out and dust it off. Yours faithfully, A. R. ISSERLIS, Rose and Crown Cottage, Upton, Burford, Oxfordshire.

## Technology and jobs

From Dr C. J. Humphreys

Sir, The Professor of Greek at the University of Glasgow argues (April 2) against increased training in technology subjects because "As work diminishes and leisure increases, general education should take priority over vocational training, and intellectual subjects over mechanical ones". This view is widespread in Britain, but not amongst our international competitors.

One of the most important reasons for increased training in technology is to increase work and reduce unemployment. Although it is true that some high-technology industries employ few people, Mr Bruce Merrifield, an assistant secretary in the US Commerce Department, has estimated that every new high-technology job in the USA has created between six and eight low-technology ones (*Economist*, November 24, 1984). In addition, the wealth generated by high technology enables people to be employed in service industries. The growth of high technology in the USA is undoubtedly responsible for the substantially reduced unemployment in that country in the last few years. Conversely the lack of support of science and technology by successive British governments is largely responsible for our massive unemployment today.

In 1948 the first digital computers ran the first stored programs in the world at the University of Manchester. Because of lack of long-term technological planning in Britain our lead was squandered and in 1983 we had a trade deficit of £800 million in information technology products.

On the other hand, in 1972 the Japanese Government's Science and Technology Agency produced a detailed 30 year plan for IT research development, as a result of which Japan now leads the world in this key area and unemployment in Japan is extremely low.

If our country is to survive economically and reduce unemployment it must have long-term plans and investment in science and engineering, the study of which is at least as demanding intellectually as the study of Greek.

Yours faithfully, C. J. HUMPHREYS, Department of Metallurgy and Science of Materials, Parks Road, Oxford.

## Bioscience for mankind

From Professor R. D. Keynes, FRS

Sir, Your editorial, "Small is beautiful" (March 25) poses very much to the point in arguing for the urgent necessity of breaking away from the structure of past development finance in order to enable non-governmental organizations to make a more effective contribution towards the long-term aim of helping the countries of Africa and elsewhere to build up their scientific and technical infrastructure so that they are better able to undertake their own research on the pressing problems in agriculture, food production, medicine and biotechnology that confront them.

The International Biosciences Networks (IBN) have been set up jointly by the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and Unesco, and during the past few years regional networks have come into being in Latin America, Asia, Africa and the Arab states. They function autonomously through the institution of networks of existing centres which can arrange co-oper-

## Uncertainty and the grounds of faith

From the Reverend G. W. F. Lang

Sir, Without aligning myself with any party to the present dispute about the meaning of Resurrection, sparked off by the Bishop of Durham, I wonder if, as a parish priest of some 27 years experience, I may offer the following observations on the topic?

Christians may need to be reminded that there can be no such thing as a "literal" interpretation of a unique event. The conservative-minded cannot be allowed to suppose that their views themselves are not interpretative, because they are quite simply are.

Interpretations had better be argued on their merits, rather than by denouncing fellow-Christians who arrive at different ones. So far, the silence in this regard (as opposed to the volume of assertion) is striking from Dr Jenkins's opponents.

My own bishop has publicly aired the view that Dr Jenkins should resign, adding the curiously revealing rider that he should return to academic life. By implication, therefore, academic enquiry is not a fit task for a bishop. This is very quaint, when we look at the history of the development of Christian doctrine, and the bishops (do we allow St Paul to have been one?) who furthered it and it is very alarming, as a prescription for modern bishops. All the best teachers - like Jesus and Socrates - proceed by questioning: bishops, evidently, may not.

To those who assert that that elusive commodity, "simple faith", is disturbed by questioning, would have found themselves the unexpected bedfellows of the Pharisees in Gospel days: it was their view exactly. I must say, in all my ministry I've met very few of these, as opposed to a number whose deep-seated prejudices are disturbed; but I have met an infinite number of those whose faith was offended by a crude conservatism.

Anyhow, it's all good clean fun and a *mirabile actu*, we can be getting back to the days of the Arian controversy, when theology was the staple talk of the barbers' shops. This is a turn-up for the nineteen eighties - well done, Dr Jenkins! Yours faithfully, G. W. F. LANG, St Margaret's Vicarage, King's Lynn, Norfolk, April 6.

From the Reverend Canon George Lustin

Sir, The Archbishop of York may be correct to point out that in some cases "the dividing line between revelatory stories and revelatory events" is unclear, but that remains a particular rather than a general statement, so it is logically fallacious to imply any generality to the Arian controversy, when theology was the staple talk of the barbers' shops. This is a turn-up for the nineteen eighties - well done, Dr Jenkins! Yours faithfully, G. W. F. LANG, St Margaret's Vicarage, King's Lynn, Norfolk, April 6.

## Quality in education

From the General Secretary of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education

Sir, On Tuesday last week the Secretary of State for Education and Science published a White Paper, *Better Schools*, which once again emphasised his concern for quality in education.

At the same time, but almost unnoticed by the national Press, he sent to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on the Supply and Education of Teachers (Acset) his decision on teacher supply and the number of teacher-training places to be provided.

In order to accommodate both the rising number of primary pupils and the Secretary of State's policies on "improving teaching quality", Acset had recommended a 49 per cent increase in primary training places and had indicated that, in the view of the committee, even an increase of that magnitude would not be sufficient to meet the needs of the schools.

In his response the Secretary of State indicates he will provide only a 27 per cent increase, and gives no indication as to how the additional teachers are to be found. As with so

## Tear and wear

From Mr Henry G. Button

Sir, The wartime ration book (Sir Martin Rosewater's obituary, April 2) was not originally intended to cover clothes as well as food. While the need to ration food in time of war had been foreseen before 1939, nobody at that stage had envisaged clothes rationing (*quorum pars parva fit*, one might add).

It was because of the happy accident that there were some spare coupons in the food ration book that the Board of Trade was able to

introduce clothes rationing in 1941 without waiting for special documents to be printed. When the President of the Board of Trade informed the nation on June 1, 1941, that clothes were now rationed he went on to say that the first 26 coupons in the annual allowance of 66 coupons would consist of the coupons in the food book marked *margarine*.

Where he is quite mistaken is in the use which he makes of the dividing line drawn between the content of faith and the grounds of faith. In the end we do not face choices or alternatives: faith is not an either/or, but rather a plus or minus. St Matthew records that "when the eleven saw the risen Christ they worshipped him: but some doubted". St John that Thomas would not believe without the evidence of sight and touch; St Luke that Jesus invited the disciples to handle him, adding that "a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see I have".

Those who still doubted the reality of the bodily resurrection were unable to offer an equally valid truth as an alternative without denying the reality of the experience which was self-evident to those who accepted the tangible existence of the risen Jesus. Such is the nature of faith: it is an addition to the truth which was formerly denied, doubted or only partially comprehended, and is beyond the kind of cerebral explanation or communication which liberal protestantism seems to demand.

Moreover, the path along which our uncertain teachers would seem to ask us to travel demands not merely the examination of historical evidence (and it should be examined) but its rejection if it fails to meet the rationalistic criteria which appear to be paramount.

The difficulty is that once the resurrection appearances are dismissed as historically unreliable and therefore unacceptable, it is inevitable that the virgin birth, the ascension, the second coming, along with miracles, signs, wonders, and in the end the incarnation itself must all be discarded. There remains no faith worth proclaiming to the death: only moral exhortation which must itself be updated to fit with contemporary standards.

It is little wonder, then, that preaching and prophecy today, at any rate from some of our bishops, appears to be rooted in political and social theory instead of being a theological and spiritual challenge to modern society. For the Church of England the future is indeed bleak, as the old guard of the episcopal bench is rapidly decimated by retirement, to be replaced in many cases by bishops from that one liberal stable.

Already there are signs of disintegration and it is conceivable that historians a century hence will point to the mid-1980s as the beginning of the Church of England's final demise. Or can there yet again be an eleventh-hour reprieve from what are sadly emerging as its just desserts?

Yours faithfully, GEORGE AUSTIN, The Vicarage, 19 High Road, Bushey Heath, Watford, Hertfordshire, April 11.

many policies of the present Government, they express a concern and then fail to provide the resources to translate that concern into a reality.

Moreover, contrary to advice, the Secretary of State has chosen to expand provision via one-year postgraduate training courses rather than the four-year BED courses.

One of the concerns represented in *Better Schools* is the extent to which too much teaching is over-didactic, teacher-led and teacher-centred.

In one of their recent reports, *The New Teacher in School*, HM Inspectors comment upon the extent to which teachers trained via the BED route have a much better mastery of the repertoire of teaching and classroom skills.

Once again the Secretary of State's decisions seem to run counter to his reported concern for improving teaching quality in schools.

Yours faithfully, PETER DAWSON, General Secretary, National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, Hamilton House, Mableton Place, WC1, April 2.

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Moreover, the path along which our uncertain teachers would seem to ask us to travel demands not merely the examination of historical evidence (and it should be examined) but its rejection if it fails to meet the rationalistic criteria which appear to be paramount.

## Doubts on status of green belt

From the Chairman of the London Green Belt Council

Sir, In reply to a recent radio question about the future protection of the 88,000 acres of green belt land owned by the GLC, Mr Kenneth Baker repeated ministerial statements that the land would be regarded as inalienable, and said that he could "give an absolute guarantee and assurance" that it would not be developed.

That is not, however, what the formal statement of the Secretary of State's decisions about the future of this land says. The statement issued by the DOE on November 7, 1984, reads:

The Secretary of State also wishes to take this opportunity to remind authorities that he regards this land as inalienable. Agreements were acquired giving a public authority interest in each holding. The intention was that this should be in perpetuity and, while the Secretary of State must continue to consider any proposals on their merits, he would only agree to changes in the most exceptional circumstances.

Whom is one to believe? What the Secretary of State has said, in effect, is that the land is inalienable unless he says that it isn't. This is no sort of "absolute guarantee". What is surely needed, if there is any proposal to change the status of any of this land, is to take the decision away from the Secretary of State and invoke the special parliamentary procedure that applies to changing the status of certain other kinds of land.

The London Green Belt Council is also concerned at the ludicrous proposals relating to the unitary plans which each borough will prepare, unitary in that they combine both structure and local plan elements. The Secretary of State justified the scheme (second reading on December last) partly on the basis that the plans would devolve more to the local level. He said:

The authorities will not be required to submit those plans to the Secretary of State for approval, as happens at present with structure plans.

Schedule 1 to the Bill says, however, that they shall send a copy to the Secretary of State before adopting it and provides for directions which the Secretary of State may give if he is not satisfied with what a borough has done.

Is it any wonder, then, that we are concerned that such legislation will lead to confusion and damage?

Yours faithfully, R. W. G. SMITH, Chairman, The London Green Belt Council, 111 Billy Low Lane, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, April 10.

## Threat to ecology

From the President of the British Ecological Society and others

Sir, The science of ecology has become vital to reversing the environmental degradation characteristic of so many parts of our large conurbations. Teams of ecologists expert in the rehabilitation of derelict land (and the associated problems of soil toxicity), the environmental consequences of new developments and long-term nature conservation work alongside planners and landscape architects in the metropolitan counties of Merseyside, Greater Manchester, South Yorkshire and Greater London.

As it stands at the moment, the Bill to abolish the metropolitan councils will lead to the dismantling of these valuable and cost-effective ecological units. Whatever is the final fate of the metropolitan authorities themselves, we urge the Government to provide for the continuance and development of this ecological expertise in our cities, and record our conviction that it is unrealistic and uneconomic to expect district authorities to establish their own multi-disciplinary ecological teams.

Yours faithfully, L. R. TAYLOR, President, A. D. BRADSHAW, R. J. BERRY (President, Linnean Society), ASHBV, The British Ecological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1.

## Twice the value

From Mrs Andrew Wilson

Sir, Mr Crawford Clarke's eggspiration (April 8) is not a first, and nor is his letter relating it. I wrote a nearly identical letter to *The Times* in 1971, but I had found 12 out of a dozen eggs to be double-yolked.

I can only presume that I was considered an unsuitable correspondent for publication on the grounds of age and sex. Yours faithfully, SALLY WILSON, Woodcote, Windsor Road, Ascot, Berkshire.

## Reform of the Lords

From Lord Cranborne, MP for Dorset South (Conservative)

Sir, Sir Douglas Wass's proposal (feature, April 4) for a standing royal commission was extremely interesting. Do we, however, need another constitutional body independent of Parliament with all the attendant new practice and perhaps even legislation such an invention would bring in its train?

There might be another way, neater and less cumbersome to operate, of achieving Sir Douglas's objectives: reform of the existing House of Lords.

He himself says that the future of the House of Lords has "been quietly taken off the official agenda." This is as regrettable as the recent revival in new hereditary creations. It is all the more regrettable when one considers that the House of Lords originally came into existence at least partly in order to perform the very function Sir Douglas envisages for his SRC.

If a reformed House of Lords were, like its medieval forerunner, to

## ON THIS DAY

APRIL 15 1887

The second half of the 19th century found Britain involved in a series of wars, some blatantly of a colonizing nature, others formed part of the pattern of British foreign policy. Its intervention in Persia was of the latter kind. In 1858 Persia occupied Herat in Afghanistan, a move which threatened British interests in India. The subsequent Persian-British war was short-lived and in 1887 the Shah evacuated Herat and recognised Afghan independence.

## THE PERSIAN WAR

(FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT)

CAMP BEFORE BUSHIRE, FEB. 25

Owing to the non-arrival of the remaining portion of the Second Division, which was confidently expected here ten days ago, as well as in consequence of the strong north-westerly gales which have prevailed and which have prevented all intercourse with the shipping in the harbour, the Mohammerah expedition has been delayed. It was found yesterday, however, it was found practicable to get the Semiramis and Benicene steamers under way. They took in tow the Ocean Monarch and the Purley Moharek with one battery of artillery, a corps of coolie-bearers, stores etc., as also three punboats. These will be dropped near the estuary of the Shatt-el-Arab, there to await the arrival of the main body of the force destined to capture and garrison Mohammerah.

Captain Kemball, Resident at Baghdad, arrived here a few days ago, and reports that the garrison of Mohammerah has been increased, and that 18 guns have been mounted in the embrasures of the forts. The Arabs in that quarter appear to be in anxious expectation of our approach which, it is to be feared, will be the signal of a general rising of the tribes against their Persian master. It will require a little diplomacy to prevent these wild claims from committing every kind of excess, and at the same time, to keep on good terms with the Kurds. The latter is absolutely necessary to the success of our operations generally, for one great object in seizing Mohammerah is to open out the resources of that district to the wants of our army.

The entire army, when the whole of the Second Division arrives, will not amount to more than 10,000 men of arms. From 3,000 to 4,000 of these will advance to Mohammerah and a good moiety of that number must remain to garrison it. I believe that an advance thence to Shuster and Dizful might easily be made with the co-operation of the British and Persian troops. It would be worse than useless, unless Sir James could leave adequate garrisons in those places. He cannot detach more men from before Bushire while the enemy maintain their position below the gorges. Even then, the numbers there are from 5,000 to 25,000 men, with 6 or 30 guns and reports still prevail of many regiments being on their way from Isfahan and Teheran. Again the Bazar report is that the Serkeshehli Bahli, or Commandant of the Kurds, is in a course of conspiracy with Hamza Mirza, the Shah's uncle, on his way from Teheran, empowered to conclude a treaty of peace. If this is really the case, and we are able to secure even our principal objects, I trust that no hope of contention will be raised on our side, and that an end may be made of this war. On the other hand, however, should no such overtures be made by Persia, we must, as far as I can see, be prepared for a serious struggle; and, if Herat is the starting-block, and that an end may be made of this war by our taking possession of it. Averse as England and India may be to undertake military operations in that quarter, she will ultimately be driven to it, since it is not difficult to foresee that the eventualities of the war in this direction may lead to the occupation of Herat by Russian troops.

After reports from the adjoining neighbourhood lead us to believe that many more of the Persians were killed at the battle of Kooabash than we ourselves believed. Hundreds of the wounded were said to be strewn near the river Daliki, and from all accounts the heavy trench work was quite disorganised, and that an end may be made of this war by our taking possession of it. Averse as England and India may be to undertake military operations in that quarter, she will ultimately be driven to it, since it is not difficult to foresee that the eventualities of the war in this direction may lead to the occupation of Herat by Russian troops.

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## No great shakes?

From Sir Anthony Alment

Sir, For travellers whose tittle was claret rather than whisky (David St John, Special Report, April 3), the GWR in its heyday discovered and served in its jolting restaurant cars the suitably named *crû bourgeois exceptionnel* Chateau Mille-Seccus, whose champagne chateau was Chateau Riden, and the late Maurice Healy wrote a song about it.

Imagine British Rail doing a thing like that! Yours faithfully, ANTHONY ALMENT, Winstone House, Boughton, Northampton.

## Double barrelled

From Mr Michael Charlesworth

Sir, Today (April 6) Mr Few gives a good example of a pithy telegram. Of the same genre is the telegram sent by Lord Salisbury (the Prime Minister) to his heir in Dorset: Cranborne, Cranborne. Arriving 6.30 Salisbury. Salisbury. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL CHARLESWORTH, 2 Woodbank Drive, Port Hill, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.





## COURT AND SOCIAL

### COURT CIRCULAR

**THATCHED HOUSE LODGE**  
April 14: Princess Alexandra was present at this evening at a Concert given by the London Symphony Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall as part of the Mather, Vienna and Mary Tuer, 19th Century Festival 1985, of which Her Royal Highness is Patron.  
Miss Mona Mitchell was in attendance.

### Forthcoming marriages

**Mr W. R. Kerr**  
and **Miss G. M. Hamilton-Baillie**  
The engagement is announced between William, eldest son of Lord and Lady John Kerr, of Holly Bank, Wootton, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, and Griselde, eldest daughter of Brigadier and Mrs J. R. E. Hamilton-Baillie, of Rectory House, Stanfield-in-the-Valle, Faringdon, Oxfordshire.

**Mr C. D. Nicholson**  
and **Miss C. G. Cavendish**  
The engagement is announced between Charles, younger son of the late A. W. Nicholson and Mrs J. E. M. Nicholson, and Juliet, younger daughter of Lord and Lady Waterpark.

**Mr M. Day Lawson**  
and **Miss C. M. C. Agnew**  
The engagement is announced between Maurice, son of Mr Ernest Lawson and Mrs Eileen Day Lawson, of 1 Eaton Mansions, Cliveden Place, SW1, and Charlotte, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Agnew, KCVO, CB, and the late Ruth Agnew, of Pinchum, South Ascot.

**Mr M. J. Aris**  
and **Miss J. N. Hewardine**  
The engagement is announced between Malcolm John, son of Mr and Mrs M. J. Aris, of St. Vincent, Hertfordshire, and Julia Naomi, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Hewardine, of 1 Cutler Ferry Lane, Cambridge, and of Lampeter.

**Mr S. K. Blows**  
and **Miss J. A. Gladstone**  
The engagement is announced between Simon Keith, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Blows, of Hornchurch, Essex, and Juliet Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stephen Gladstone, of Groombridge, East Sussex.

**Mr M. D. Byrne**  
and **Miss F. J. Davies**  
The engagement is announced between Michael David, eldest son of the late Mr G. R. Byrne and of Mrs M. D. Byrne, of Woolton, Liverpool, and Felicity Jane, youngest daughter of the late Mr R. E. Davies and of Mrs M. E. Davies, of Tarbock, Merseyside.

**Mr O. R. P. Chippell**  
and **Miss K. L. Lethbridge**  
The engagement is announced between Oliver Robert, Piers Chippell, Grenadier Guards, eldest son of Mr and Mrs G. H. Chippell, of Blackheath, London, and Kate Louise, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs G. T. Lethbridge, of Weybridge, Surrey.

**Mr M. F. E. Ephson**  
and **Miss E. M. Collins**  
The engagement is announced between Michael Frederick, eldest son of the late Mr M. F. Ephson, of London, and Madeline, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. E. A. Baird, of Grouville, Jersey.

**Mr C. N. J. Woodhead**  
and **Miss M. J. A. Baird**  
The engagement is announced between Clive Nicholas James, only son of Mr and Mrs D. G. Woodhead, of Clapham, London, and Madeline, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. E. A. Baird, of Grouville, Jersey.

**Mr R. J. Wheeler**  
and **Miss K. Wilkinson**  
The engagement is announced between Robert, eldest son of the late Mr J. E. Wheeler and Mrs H. M. Wheeler, of Stroud, Gloucestershire, and Heather, only daughter of Mr and Mrs C. P. C. Wilkinson, of Birmingham, Kent.

**Mr J. D. K. Cameron**  
and **Miss R. W. Fell**  
The engagement is announced between John David, son of Mrs Anne Cameron, of Beaufort House, Beaufort, Co. Kerry, Irish Republic, and Port San Carlos, Falkland Islands, and the late Mr Norman Keith Cameron, of Rached, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Fell, of Thame, Oxfordshire.

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# Pentecostalism goes middle class

In the first of two reports on the state of the new Pentecostal movements in Britain, Dr Andrew Walker writes of the charismatic Renewal group.

For those who enjoy the sight of sociologists with egg on their faces, Britain's new Pentecostal movements should give them cause for hilarity: for while the conventional wisdom of social science has condemned Pentecostalism to the nether regions of the socially disinherited — white and black working class — charismatic activity has been alive and well for some 20 years in deepest middle-class England.

Some new idiosyncratic sect perhaps? Not a bit of it. Tens of thousands of these "people of the charisma" are to be found in the Church of England, the Roman Catholic Church, and the main Nonconformist churches. Among its Church of England members are the Bishop of Pontefract, the Right Rev Richard Hare, a plenitude of canons and deans, and sympathisers such as the Bishops of Derby, Leicester, and Birmingham (who, although not uncritical, give much to commend this institutional enthusiasm).

Charismatics insist that they are not sectarian. They remain Catholic, Anglican, or whatever, affirming Pentecost not as a denomination but as an experience.

Since 1980, however, the Renewal has not always been

The experience can be a bit unnerving if you are not used to it. The sight in the mid 1970s of Anglicans chanting in tongues during Evening Prayer, Catholics dancing in the aisles at Mass, and shouting "Thank you Jesus", seemed as odd as clergymen in the Baptist Union casting out demons.

By the end of the 1970s, many ordinary church members who tended to be suspicious of miracles and prophecies — performed before their very eyes — were somewhat jollied along into a passive acceptance of those middle-class ecstasies because the Renewal movement, as it was calling itself, was packaged in a liturgical style that was appealing.

Of course, it depended what sort of an ordinary church member you were. If you felt comfortable with King James, the 1662 Prayer Book, and the Psalter, then extempore praying, clapping, dancing, hand waving, and repetitious songs set to middle-of-the-road rock tunes were no more your cup of tea than the Pentecostal happenings that peppered those new liturgies.

But many people, out of tune with their church services and marginal in their religious commitment, warmed to the camaraderie and liveliness of Holy Ghost revival in its new, less aggressive, cultural form.

Since 1980, however, the Renewal has not always been

treated so sanguinely. In 1981, for example, during the November debate of the General Synod of the Church of England on the Anglican consultation document on the Renewal, what was expected to be an uncontroversial discussion on an essentially bland report erupted into fury: there was so much heat and bad temper that the debate had to be suspended.

In the past few years, many of the nagging doubts that mainstream Christians had harboured against the Renewal movement in the 1970s have become more vocal. The Rev Peter Mullen, Vicar of Tockwith, sees followers of the Renewalist movement not as "fun to be with", but dangerous. He has a file, two feet thick, of people that he claims have been psychologically damaged by exorcisms, healing sessions and the sheer banality, as he sees it, of charismatic chatter.

Liturgical traditionalists, such as the Rev Professor David Martin, argue that while the Renewal may be orthodox in many of its beliefs, it is modernist in its liturgical practices: the relationship between sacred content and form is something that few charismatics ever examine.

Prebendary Dick Lucas, one of the Church of England's most respected Evangelicals, has doubts about healing practices. This year, he has been particularly critical of an American

evangelist, Mr John Wimber, who made considerable impact on the Renewal movement last October with his "signs and wonders" workshops at Westminster Central Hall.

The Church of England Board of Mission and Unity has confirmed that far from dying (as many thought) the Renewal is still quietly growing and consolidating. Charismatics rigorously defend their orthodoxy and can point to the renewed interest in healing and alternative medicine within the churches today as primarily their doing.

It is doubtful whether any other religious group, in recent years, can claim the interdenominational success at the grassroots that the Renewal has achieved. (The arch-conservative Church Society sees Renewalism as an enemy, because it lures so smoothly between Catholics and Evangelicals.)

Perhaps the greatest threat to the Renewal comes from a new radical Pentecostalism outside the main churches. Those, inaptly named, "house churches", have already successfully criticised hundreds of followers of the Renewal movement into their own fellowships.

Next week: "House churches". Resolving *The Kingdom: The Radical Christianity of the House Church Movement*, by Dr Walker, is to be published soon by Hodder & Stoughton.

### Marriages

**Mr R. H. A. Southby**  
and **Miss N. C. W. Janson**

The marriage took place on Saturday at Holy Trinity Church, Isle of Wight, of Mr Richard Southby, son of Lieutenant-Commander P. H. J. and Lady Anne Southby, of Blandford Forum, Dorset, and Miss Nicola Janson, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Jonathan Janson, of London and the Isle of Wight. The Right Rev William Llewellyn and the Rev Matthew Lynn officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by William Bradley, Harry McGadam, Henry Talbot-Ponsonby, Sacha Bonsor, Elizabeth Heneghan, Louise Hope, Eliza and Nina Kenyon, and Nicola Macinness. Mr David Penn was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride.

**Mr F. Neagle**  
and **the Hon Lena Hall**

The marriage took place on Saturday at St Columba's Church, Scotland, of Mr Frederick Neagle, eldest son of the late Mr and Mrs William Neagle, and the Hon Lena Margaret Hall, elder daughter of Viscount Hall, and the late Hon Mrs Leonard Hall.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Emily Bates and Elise Henderson. A reception was held at Haberdashers' Hall and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

**Mr D. W. Cloghton**  
and **Mrs J. A. Woodford**

The marriage took place in Woking on April 12 between Mr David Cloghton (nee Eaton) widow of Lieutenant Colonel John A. Woodford.

**Mr C. F. P. Consternie**  
and **Miss J. A. Benton-Stone**

The marriage took place on April 4 between Mr Cyril Edward Pierre Consternie and Miss Julia Auvengne Benton-Stone.

**Mr E. A. C. Cottrell**  
and **Miss C. J. Neal**

The marriage took place on Saturday April 13, in the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban, St Albans, of Captain Edward Cottrell, of Great Tew, and Miss Catherine Cottrell, of Hill House, Dunfermline, Fife, and Miss Camilla Neal, daughter of Mr and Mrs Morton Neal, of Great Sarat Hall, Sarum, Hampshire.

A reception was held at Great Sarat Hall, and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

**Mr J. S. W. Grzesbrook**  
and **Miss A. J. Day**

The marriage took place on Saturday April 13, at St Michael's Church, Great Tew, of Mr John Grzesbrook and Miss Anabella Day. The Rev H. Colchester officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Rosanna Day, Emma-Rose Garfield, Daisy Tate, Sophie Watson, Charles Savory and Anthony Lindley. Mr Peter Haig was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

**Mr J. M. Franklin**  
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The marriage took place on Saturday at St Matthew's, Bedford, of Mr Jonathan Franklin, elder son of Sir Michael and Lady Franklin, of Barret, Hertfordshire, and Miss Mary Elizabeth Laidlaw, elder daughter of

the late Mr D. Laidlaw and of Mrs R. Laidlaw, of Bainbridge Island, Washington, Dr W. Foley and the Rev J. S. Fraser officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her grandfather, Captain David Laidlaw, RN, was attended by Johanna Welt, Miss Alexa Gardner, Miss Christina Laidlaw, sister of the bride, and Miss Christian Pierce Laidlaw. Mr Robin Franklin, brother of the bridegroom, was best man.

A reception was held at the Bedford Golf and Tennis Club and the honeymoon will be spent in Barbados.

**Mr C. P. Henson**  
and **Miss S. E. Bates**

The marriage took place on Saturday at St Eulachre's, Ely Place, of Mr Christopher Henson, of Blandford Island, Washington, United States, and Miss Sally Elizabeth Bates, elder daughter of Major-General Sir John and Lady Bates, of Rolvenden Lodge, Cranbrook, Kent. Father Wilfrid McGrath, O.C.M., officiated.

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# NO WONDER DISABLED PEOPLE END UP PRISONERS IN THEIR OWN HOMES.



THEY CAN ONLY GO TO THE SWIMMING POOL AT SEGREGATED TIMES.



THEY'LL BE ASKED TO LEAVE PUBS TO AVOID UPSETTING THE REGULARS.

Would you like to go on holiday out of season because you might upset other people?

Or be turned away from the cinema because you're called a fire risk?

Or have to travel under the stairs of a bus? (Assuming a parcel hasn't beaten you to it.)

Or be thought to be daft when you're in fact deaf?

Or not be able to drink in your local, because the toilets are inaccessible?

You'd have to if you were disabled.

Always feeling a second-class citizen.

And often treated as if your intelligence is handicapped as well.

That's assuming you can actually get out and about.

On crutches, a trip to the corner shop is a major expedition.

In a wheelchair, life is one long Grand National.

With kerbs, steps, inclines and revolving doors to keep you living a social death.

Cut off from friends, amenities and the outside world.

Moreover, many people with disabilities can't afford to go out.

The number of disabled people who are unemployed in London is two to three times that of able-bodied people.

Not that disabled people are unemployable. They're just never given the chance to show what they can do.

(Only what they can't.)

Which is why the GLC has set up the Disability Resource Team.

To combat not just prejudice but thoughtlessness.

To let people with disabilities lead a fuller and more integrated life.

To help them gain access to all the facilities we take for granted. Education, housing, public amenities and work.

But, what's just as important, not in segregated places nor at segregated times.

Chances are you're in a position to help. Whether you design buildings, run them, work in them or own them. If you'd like more advice write for a leaflet to GLC Disability Resource Team, Room 92, The County Hall, London SE1 7PB.

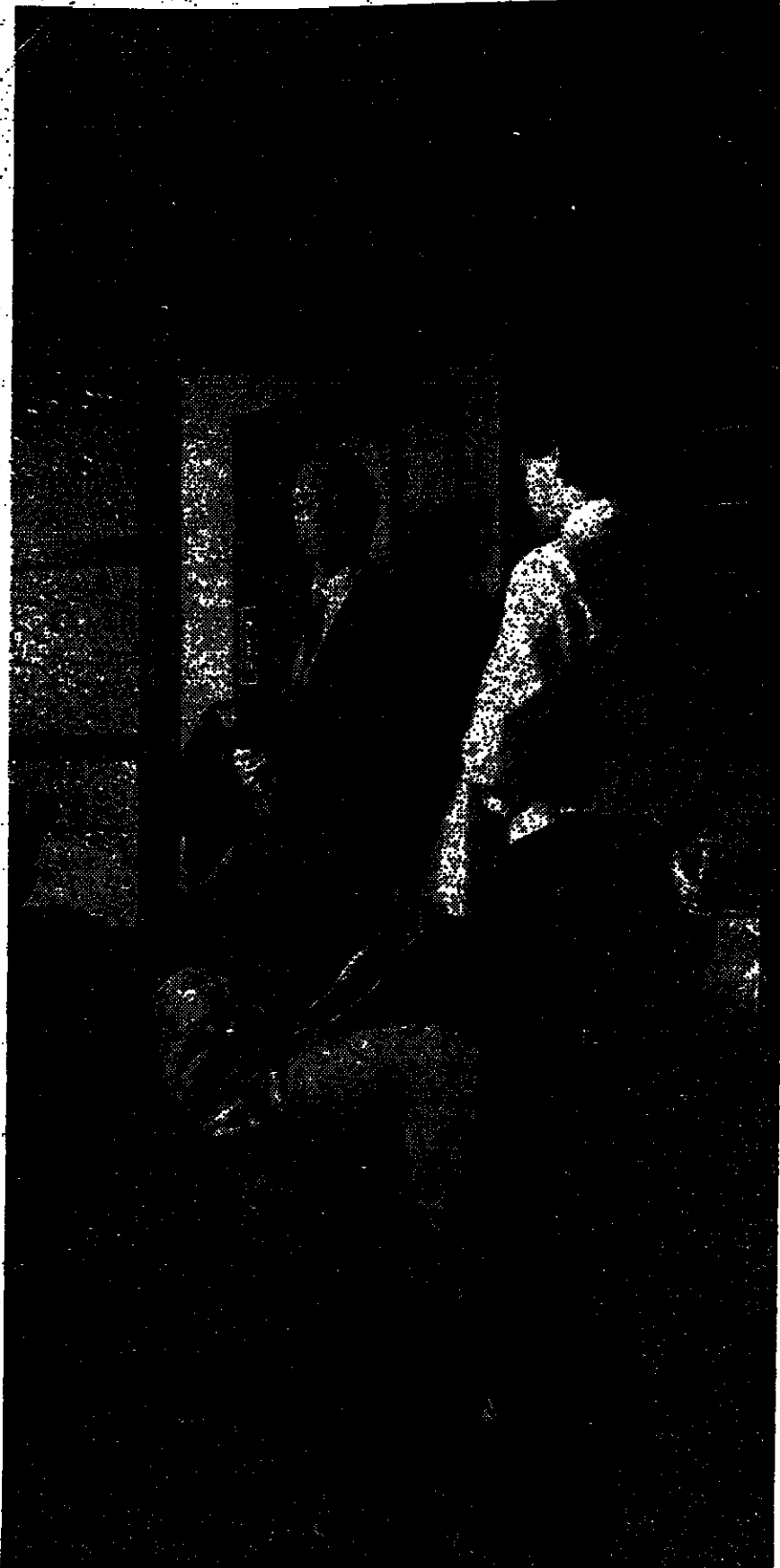
Or ring the GLC Hotline on 01-633 4400.

We would also welcome enquiries from people with disabilities. Not that we can solve individual cases, but we can give guidance.

Before you turn the page, reconsider your attitudes.

You'd naturally help a blind person across the road.

But is that as far as it goes?



THEIR GUIDE DOGS WILL BE LABELLED HEALTH RISKS IN RESTAURANTS.



THEY'LL BE BANNED FROM GOING ANYWHERE AT ALL BY A BROKEN LIFT.

**GLC. A DISABILITY SHOULDN'T BE A HANDICAP.**

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The ch  
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Firms that



SPECIAL REPORT

DISABLED AT WORK/3

# The challenge of an average working day

Disabled people's problems vary enormously, and a key factor is whether they have had their impairment all their lives, or whether it has happened once their careers are established.

Ray Algar, aged 52, a newspaper compositor, was paralysed three years ago when he fell from a tree. He was pruning in the garden of his home in Surrey and now has to use a wheelchair. He sees his job as a lifeline.

"I feel that being back at work is a must for me. It's more important than anything. To have a purpose - not just to get dressed, I now have to think again, because you don't want to get into a lazy sort of attitude. Your mind and body become cut off from the normal working day."

After his accident Mr Algar spent more than a year at Stoke Mandeville hospital and then eight weeks at Hedley Court, the Royal Air Force rehabilitation centre near Epsom. He has to take drugs every six hours to combat nerve pain.

Even now, he is still finding his way. It was only a couple of

months ago, he says, that colleagues stopped noticing his disability and started treating him like anyone else. He still gets depressed at times but puts that down to "just frustration".

Computers, says Mr Algar, came just at the right time. He had been a linotype operator with The Times until the paper introduced computer setting a few months before his accident, by which time he had been trained for a new system.

Adapting an old machine for his use would have been impossible, he believes, and he would have had no chance of returning to his job. Computer terminals are much more easily adjusted because they are small and light. His own is raised a few inches so he can work from his wheelchair.

At work he has a special lavatory allowing access for a wheelchair, and a mechanical crawler loaned to him by the Manpower Services Commission to carry the chair upstairs. The local authority and the police have co-operated to allow him to park the car he uses to get to and from work.



Helping hands: Ray Algar faces two flights of steps before he reaches his computer terminal each morning

At home he uses a ramp and stairlift. But far more than gadgets, it is clear, he values the help people have offered. He explains: "Initially, you need a lot of help, somebody that has got their feet on the ground." For him that person was his wife Rita.

Mr Algar does not dwell on his disability. Instead, he points out what he can do. He is reasonably strong, and has taught himself to cope with challenges such as getting in and out of the bath.

He can even do a certain amount of gardening. "Lots of

good things came out of this. Now I find that I see the better side of people. I see people in a different light."

By contrast, Mr Charles Pocock, public relations manager of Remploy, the disabled people's company, has had to cope with his disability all his life.

His condition, restricted growth, means not only he is small - his height is 4ft 1in - but it also affects his hands, feet and spine.

Mr Pocock, the holder of an honorary doctorate, says he has had to come to terms with the

attitude: "What circus does he come from?"

But after 60 years, one develops a philosophy, he adds. His wife is of normal height and they have two daughters and three grandsons. His lifestyle is like anyone else's.

But life was not always so congenial. Up to the age of 17, it meant a series of hospital visits and no formal schooling.

Mr Pocock's own determination has been an important factor in his progress. He used his spells out of hospital to take a commercial course and emerged with 120 wpm short-

hand, which allowed him to work for a while as a shorthand typist. Since his first job, sorting out ration books, he has never been unemployed.

He believes strongly that for disabled people, the first job is all important: thereafter most people will use determination and adaptability to build on opportunities.

His own career took him to an agricultural college, where he was on the administrative staff, and later to the Civil Service. He was general secretary of the Disabled Drivers' Association for 10 years, and joined

Remploy in 1973.

His experience has led him to see an adequate education as one of the most important means of helping disabled children overcome their disadvantage.

"There is plenty of evidence to demonstrate that if you give a disabled person work, that person will rise to their full potential."

In his own case, the difficulty he had to face in getting work was "subconscious and preconceived notions" about someone with his condition, and he says, "total disbelief that this guy

with his unusual shape was ever likely to make a meaningful contribution".

There has been, he believes, a great improvement in opportunities for disabled people over the past 40 years. Nowadays, there are more opportunities for training and work preparation, and people are likely not to be so handicapped by their condition.

Mr Pocock feels that an important factor is public attitude. The laws to help disabled people in this country are already adequate, and disabled people's lives would be changed radically if all the provisions were implemented.

On the Government's new code and the 1944 Act, he says: "I am a strong advocate for keeping the quota system, because no one has convinced me that there is a viable alternative."

The quota does not work as well as it ought to, he says, at least it has provided a platform which has tended almost imperceptibly to create a climate of awareness.

He admits to scepticism about many measures, and feels that there are too many reports and commissions and not enough action.

Yet in spite of the shortcomings, he insists: "I still say that if you are disabled, Britain is the only country to be in." Others that might be said to be doing well for disabled people, he feels, would be Sweden and The Netherlands.

## A jungle of permits, rules and quotas

A problem for governments and authorities trying to draw up legislation is that most people do not want to label themselves "disabled". In Britain, for example, there were only 400,000 registered disabled people last year, a small proportion compared with the number thought to have some handicap.

The unemployment rate for the disabled is estimated at 85,000, more than 20 per cent, compared with 13.9 per cent of the general population. Disabled people are likely to be out of work for twice as long as most people.

However, the way in which government statistics are gathered does not allow for precise figures, and there are fears that the true picture may be much worse.

The Manpower Services Commission says that it spent £160 million last year on services for disabled people, and funded 15,000 sheltered jobs. In the previous year it placed nearly 70,000 disabled people in jobs and lent 1,268 special aids for disabled workers to use. A total of 180 employers used grants for adapting premises and equipment.

According to the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR) disabled employees have a lower accident rate than able-bodied people, their attendance record, punctuality, and productivity are comparable and they do not move jobs as frequently as able-bodied people.

No one argues that a disabled person's lot is any better, relatively speaking, in the developed world than elsewhere. Their problem is one of having fewer opportunities than the rest of the population, and most groups, from the United Nations and the EEC down to local advisory committees, point to the importance of prodding the better elements in human nature to help rather than imposing any one system or supposing that compulsion will work.

There is wide support for Britain's quota system, introduced under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act 1944, under which most employers of 20 people or more have a duty to give at least three per cent of their jobs to disabled people.

The Government's code indicates that employing fewer than three per cent is not an offence, but an employer who is below the quota must get a permit from the local job centre if he wants to take on anyone other than a registered disabled person. Employers are also not allowed to discharge a registered disabled person without reasonable cause, if they are below the quota or if the move would put them below quota.

But the system, originally intended to help injured

servicemen from the Second World War, has been under review for the last 2½ years, and a working party is due to report on its effectiveness in the next few weeks.

The MSC is not commenting on the outcome, but fears have been voiced that the quota system may be scrapped at a time when several assistance groups feel that the need for some statutory measure has grown.

One reason for concern in Britain is that nowadays the proportion of those with solely physical impairment has gone down, and a far higher proportion of those seeking work are people with mental illness, mental handicap, or nervous disorders.

A pamphlet published last year by the Low Pay Unit and the Disability Alliance said that the replacement of the quota system by a voluntary one would make worse the employment problems of disabled people.

In *A right to work: Disability and Employment*, the groups said that the official estimate of 85,000 disabled people unemployed "grossly understated" the number seeking work.

### Companies have to state their policy

Several groups, including RADAR, are eager that the Government should extend the quota to include its own departments. At present they are excluded for what the Government describes as technical reasons, but it says, the obligation to observe the quota falls equally on them.

Fears about the Government's intentions on measures for disabled people's employment do not appear to have been allayed by the publication last November of a code of good practice aimed at employers. Some groups are worried that the emphasis on good practice, with relatively little space devoted to legal obligations, may presage the dropping of the quota.

As well as the quota, the 1944 Act provided for designated employments - for disabled people of which there are two, car-park attendant and electric lift attendant, jobs which many disabled people's groups feel are now far below the expectations many disabled people might hope to achieve. Companies with more than 250 people have to include a statement in their annual report on their policy for employing disabled people.

It has been suggested that Britain should try to follow the West German system, where the quota is 6 per cent, and employers are paying an automatic levy if they fall below it.

But the system, originally intended to help injured

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Who needs charity? Three companies show what disabled workers can offer everybody else

A major factor in combating disability is being able to feel useful, and for many severely disabled people, being able to play a part in the nation's economy contributes to self-respect.

Remploy, the country's biggest employer of disabled people, and other groups emphasize how much disabled people can contribute to industry and commerce.

The company, established under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act 1944 with one factory at Bridgend in South Wales, is proud of its role in achieving ends that other companies cannot reach, and taking on tasks that automated systems and bulk manufacture would find it too expensive or time-consuming to do.

Unilever, for example, has used the Remploy factory at St Helens on Merseyside to repackage goods left over, say, from a promotion, which have to be repackaged for sale so that they do not have to be dumped.

Remploy explains that it can tackle shorter runs more economically than the average company, and handle intricate tasks, such as building electrical assemblies, which would not be easily practicable for modern production methods.

It sells its goods at commercial rates, and calculates that although the Government pays a subsidy and gives loans for capital expenditure, the net cost to the Exchequer last year was as low as £10 million, 3 per cent more than the year before, against a general price inflation rate of 5 per cent. The operating cost per disabled person rose by 4 per cent.

The saving on unemployment and social security benefits, and the return of money to the nation in taxes and national insurance contributions substantially lightens the burden, Remploy says.

The company's workforce is one of the few that the recession has failed to diminish. Remploy has increased the number of its employees from just over 8,000 four years ago, to 9,000 now.

Those jobs have been created, the company says, without any increase in real terms in government assistance.

The company's competitive attitude belies the flexibility it has to show. Workers' handicaps arise from anything from amputations to psychoneurosis and other mental illnesses. One of its objectives, it says, is to continue to develop flexibility of response to changing patterns of disability.

In general, the proportion of employees with non-physical disabilities is increasing: 42 per cent have some form of mental or nervous handicap.

The company is about to celebrate its 40th anniversary with a sports festival at Stoke Mandeville in which 28 of its 94 factories are expected to participate.

One area it is exploring is helping young severely disabled people to find a job: it is to introduce a special Youth Training Scheme in eight of its



Keys to success: Computers at Outset, south London, and (below right) on the Production line at Remploy, Britain's biggest employer of disabled people, with 9,000 the payroll in factories all over the country.

We're doing very nicely on our own, thanks very much

factories, including Belfast, Aberdeen, St Helens, and Acton in west London. The aim is to take on 200 young people, and keep on at least 40 per cent.

Remploy makes or processes more than 150 products, and leading customers include Marks & Spencer, Boots and GEC. About 42 per cent of its goods are for government and nationalized industries, and sales this year are expected to total £60 million.

Although most goods are for the home market, the company opened a factory four years ago making medical products for export.

But Remploy also has 14 sheltered industrial groups employing 40 disabled people in other companies' premises, and just as its traditional pattern of work and work practice is changing, so other measures for severely disabled people who cannot work in open employment are developing too.

The increasing emphasis on integration of disabled people with the rest of the nation's workforce has led to many more placements in sheltered jobs on ordinary companies' premises.

Remploy's hopes of expanding its sheltered groups programme in other

companies' workplaces coincide with the Government's renaming of its Sheltered Industrial Groups programme as the Sheltered Placements Scheme from the start of this month.

The name, says the Manpower Services Commission, is more accurate because many placements are in commerce as well as industry, and employers tend to take on individuals rather than groups for sheltered work.

The number of placements has risen from 632 individuals in 1983-84, to 1,100 in the financial year just ended. This year, a rise of at least 500 is expected.

Many disabled people, however, are finding that training has helped them to start work independently and set up their own, not particularly sheltered, businesses.

Ron Sutton and his colleagues at Pallion Business Services in Sunderland, for example, use one room in the Pallion Residents' Complex, a former tailoring factory. The company is half-way through its first year, and operates, like many other small new businesses run by able-bodied people, on the Government's £40-a-week Enterprise Allowance Scheme. It has also had some help to get started from local authorities and others.

The company is a co-operative, and has nine paid staff. It offers office and business services for local companies. At the moment, according to Mr Sutton, its director, Pallion is typing up students' theses and awaiting the arrival of a £1,000 piece of software which will allow it to reprogramme its equipment.

Like the Pallion co-operative, many disabled people are eager to get away from the image of low-grade jobs as being the only choice for people with a severe handicap.

Former teacher Steve Horne, of the Outset charity in London, is to be the manager of a computerized office bureau to be staffed by disabled people near the Angel Underground station in Islington, London.

● The Government is introducing new regulations compelling builders to provide access for disabled people to new shops and offices, with ramps, wide doors, lifts and special lavatories.

● Existing buildings are exempt, but a new British standard on means of escape for disabled people is expected to be ready next year, to cover

alterations, and are expected to put up the cost of buildings by between 1 and 5 per cent.

● Meanwhile, many public buildings have already introduced facilities for disabled people. The Tarr Hotel, in London, has specially equipped rooms, and Birmingham International Airport's new terminal, built last year, has been designed with the disabled in mind.

Outset has already started an employment venture in Deptford, south east London. The project started in 1983 with six people. Now, says its director, Alex Mackay, the enterprise has 15 disabled people doing computerized book-keeping and payrolls.

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New mission for a grounded test pilot

The emphasis in training, as in sheltered work, has been changing towards allowing disabled people, as far as possible, to mix with able-bodied students.

Much recent thinking about training for disabled people has been coming from the EEC in the wake of proposals drawn up in the International Year of Disabled People in 1981. One measure being put into practice is the establishment of 16 training schemes in member states.

Among those with integration high among its priorities, is the Interface scheme in Reading, Berkshire. Altogether, nine disabled students at any one time are working beside 35 able-bodied youngsters on a Youth Training Scheme, using computers.

The project, funded by the EEC and Berkshire County Council, has another four years to run, and all but one or two of the disabled students have so far gone on to find jobs.

The project is run by Paddy Waring, a former VC10 captain who lost the use of his legs some years ago and who now has to use a wheelchair.

One problem for any training venture, he says, is that there is a "fantastic variety" of disabilities, and so structuring any kind of general provision for training is very difficult. Able people, by contrast, are fairly homogeneous.

But Mr Waring has found that disabled people share one characteristic: as he puts it, their testing of reality is not accurate. For example, "We had one guy whose sense of humour was over the top. He didn't actually realize what being cheeky was."

He believes that the reason is disabled people's social isolation, and considers some impairment of social skills essential if disabled people are to compete with the rest of the population for jobs.

"One thing that is terribly important is that rehabilitation must come out of being a research medical Cinderella," Mr Waring believes that the approach must be on several fronts, rather than just on the matter of the disability itself.

"Whatever the impairment, it does reduce the choices for them in their lives," he says, "and to put them on an equal footing they have to be raised to as near their full potential as possible."

As for assessment - telling someone what is possible for

them - it should go beyond the province of the occupational therapist and become multidisciplinary, he says. He suggests that a mobile unit would probably be the most cost-effective way of letting people know the opportunities open to them.

But perhaps the most urgent area in which advances are needed to improve training, he believes, is in getting information across. Britain already has the facilities, he says. "I think it is an incredibly important issue. A great deal of unclaimed benefit, for example, is probably due to people not knowing." Those concerned with disability ought to be able to ask questions more often, he feels, and he thinks computers would allow them to do so.

Mr Waring would like to see a computer network with terminals widely scattered, and to which anyone would have access. They might also be useful in doctors' surgeries and in district hospitals, as well as in main social services departments, he suggests. Britain has more than 30 databases connected with disability, he says, and some form of networking is becoming urgent.

Some need residential care to return to work

He foresees the proposed European data network, called Handynet, becoming an important aid, with the ideas it has drawn from the working of a system evolved by the Scandinavian countries about five years ago.

Much of the training and rehabilitation offered in Britain is non-residential, but some severely disabled people need back into the job market.

St Loye's College for the Disabled in Exeter is one of the four in the country which specialize in training disabled people for open employment.

Most of its funding comes from the Manpower Services Commission, but about £150,000 annually is contributed by commerce and industry. The annual turnover is about £2 million.

The college, which has 270 students, specializes in training for people with physical disabilities, and is concentrating much of its work on the possibilities high technology is opening for disabled people in jobs.

Computers? They're as simple as blinking

Disabled people and their support groups have been quick to take up the opportunities offered by the microcomputer which most of the rest of us use as toys.

The past few years have seen computers become some people's very means of communication, revealing previously unsuspected capabilities so much so that the Manpower Services Commission is providing help to aid residents in Britain's Cheshire Homes who want to explore ways of using them.

Even computer games, according to the Cheshire Foundation, help to develop control and dexterity. One resident, Mark Brownfield, who has lost virtually all his powers of sight, hearing and movement, used a

computer to write an essay which won a competition. He uses Morse code, and can pick up the signals as vibrations in his headphones. The computer means that anyone can communicate with him.

The computers are adapted for those who need to use either hand or foot switches, and some can operate them using mouthsticks, including Doris Manning, of the Seven Springs Cheshire Home near Tunbridge Wells, Kent, who writes poetry.

For people with still more severe disabilities, teams such as the one under Dr Peter

Griffiths at St George's Hospital, Lincoln, have been developing switches controlled by eye movements. Grants for this work have been given by the Department of Trade and Industry.

The eye movement switches work using the electrical charge generated by the eyeball when it moves. Electrodes on the head pick up the current and can be used to control cursor movements on the computer.

Computers have opened up new horizons for people once thought to be severely mentally handicapped. One company

which has been exploring the possibilities is Nordis Software, which was established by Northamptonshire County Council.

Nordis's software is written by five people with spina bifida, and the group has been using computers to teach slow learners, who need an amount of repetition which would be beyond the patience of a human teacher.

One area, however, where computers have worked against jobs for disabled people is noted by the EEC Commission in its programme of action. It says: "A very high percentage of blind people in full employment are telephonists; this career is threatened by the increasingly visual character of new-technology switchboards."

Grid of 12 portraits of individuals, each with a name and year below them.

Alan Minter 1980	The Rt Hon The Lord Soames CH GCMG GVO CBE 1980	Bob Champion 1981	PC Trevor Lock GM 1981
Steve Davis 1981	Lt Gen Sir Stuart Pringle Bt KCB 1982	Terry Wogan 1982	Robert Paisley CBE 1983
Cliff Richard CBE 1983	Crewmember Arthur Hill 1984	The Rt Hon The Lord Shovel CHPC 1984	Kelth Fletcher CBE 1984

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Advertisement for Greater Manchester Council featuring the text: 'Forget the Disabled?'.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: 'سكنا مع الراجل'.



## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

### No room for complacency round economic table

A world in which richer countries display exceptional levels of unemployment, and poorer ones exceptionally widespread famine, can hardly be called satisfactory. Yet its finance ministers, meeting in separate but similar conclaves under the aegis of the various international institutions this week, believe they have some cause for satisfaction.

The economic recovery that began feebly in 1982 may have passed its peak, with growth of nearly 5 per cent in industrial countries last year, but for 1985 the international forecasters are shaving their output projections upwards, to growth of nearly 3.5 per cent. Yet inflation is not getting significantly worse. The United States has not yet crashed-landed from its boom. Oil markets have eased, but, similarly, not collapsed. Big Latin American debtors have moved from hand-to-mouth finance to medium-term rescheduling - even if the biggest, Brazil, is in some trouble today. Central bank intervention in the currency markets has helped to rein in the dollar, or at least coincided with its peak; thus it has proved neither expensive nor disastrous.

This kind of could-be-worse cheer is being doled out liberally in the communiqués of international gatherings and it is not altogether contemptible: talking the world up into a little more investment and growth is one of the slightly more useful functions of institutional meetings. Another is that they set natural deadlines for actions by governments who do not want to spend the whole spring in the international doghouse. It is no accident that Japan had produced an import package just in time for the trade talks at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development just as it will be no accident if France finally withdraws its objections to a new international trade round in time for President Mitterrand to announce this at the Bonn economic summit. East Asia warmed itself in the sunshine of America's boom; but too much of Africa remains poor and ill-managed.

The United States is almighty enough to pay more regard to national than international deadlines; but it has conveniently concluded a deal between the Reagan Administration and the Senate's Republican leaders that marks the most significant step so far towards control of the federal budget deficit. If these plans, or something similar, hold through the later vicissitudes of Congressional negotiations, the deficit in fiscal 1986 will be a good \$50 billion less than the baseline projection made in February, 1984; and by fiscal 1988, it is at least intended to be below \$100 billion, compared with the scarring baseline projection of \$248 billion.

On the two most contentious issues between the main participating governments - Japan's huge trade surplus and America's huge budget deficit - we have therefore seen all the progress we are likely to see this spring; and all subsequent communiqués will merely dress up old as new or steal platitudes from each other. Yet the agendas of the remaining meetings are chock-full of critical economic issues, and the sense of *ennui* engendered by the tedious impotence of these financial gatherings should not spill over into complacency.

To list only the most obvious defects of our economic performance: the threat of protectionism, a phrase computer-programmed into almost every economic speech this past decade, is probably more real than at any time since heads of governments took their trade pledge at the first economic summit in 1975. Interest payments by less developed countries rose by \$6 billion last year, largely because debts had to be rescheduled at higher

rates. Though the weakening of the dollar has eased the real burden this year, rates are still high - stifling growth right around the world. The developing countries (excluding oil producers) managed an overall growth of nearly 4 per cent last year, but that was too low compared with a population growth of 2 per cent and very unevenly distributed.

The industrial world displays similar imbalance: the United States accounted for 70 per cent of total growth last year, or more if its impact on others' trade is taken fully into account. Very little of the modest growth in western Europe translated itself into jobs, and dole queues grew still longer. Exchange rates were not only perverse (with finance ministers in unusual agreement that the dollar was "too high"), but also, alarmingly volatile. Mr Paul Volcker of the Federal Reserve, growing daily in reputation as the wise man of the western world, has rightly warned of the need to take this development seriously.

Faced with such a diversity of issues, finance ministers tend to peck about like farmyard chickens. But there are perhaps four issues worth immediate concentration. The first is a discreet consensus that while prevailing economic policies are - naturally - right, and deflation unnaturally wrong, some trade-off between lower American interest rates and easier monetary conditions in Europe would give scope for faster expansion east of the Atlantic. The second is a growing sophistication about finance for developing countries. Famine in Africa has brought home to purse-proud industrial governments that there is no easy alternative to aid for the starving; but problems with bank debts have brought home to recipient governments that there is no easy alternative to economic efficiency and the encouragement of private investment in the longer term.

The third is the slow-moving current of reform of the international institutions themselves. This most concerns the two meetings this coming week, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Both have been cranking along with objectives conceived in a very different world, before the successive floods of floating exchange rates, oil surpluses, and unrepayable debt. Though their masters, the world's finance ministers, will not take anything as unusual as a decision this week, there should emerge some pointer to reform.

There remains, in the spotlight, the fourth issue of exchange rates. The new US Treasury Secretary, Mr James Baker, has flattered the international doves by tossing out a general invitation to a high level meeting on the international monetary system. This does not seem to have bought him anything even from the most ardent advocates of monetary reform - the French, because they suspect that it would prove to be no more special than this week's IMF - World Bank meetings, which have been extended and tarted up to placate Third World debtors. Everyone else, meanwhile, has been pointing out that yet another inter-governmental club, the 'Group of Ten', is deep into a two-year study which is to be brought to finance ministers in June.

This manoeuvring is the natural stuff of international economic diplomacy. It is obviously an effective mechanism for delay; a referral from one bit of institutional bureaucracy to another. Yet some times, quite surprisingly, things actually happen. We are not quite there with the international monetary systems, but we soon may begin to be.

Sarah Hogg  
Economics Editor

## Ministers agree on stronger currency links for EEC

Palermo (Reuters) - European Community finance ministers ended informal talks this weekend optimistic about prospects for developing Europe's monetary system after years of virtual standstill.

For the first time since the European Monetary System was launched in 1979, the ministers agreed on additional measures to streamline it and extend the use of its currency unit, the ECU, among European central banks.

They also discussed the need to bring sterling into the EMS, but the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, said Britain did not think the time was ripe to join.

"It's nice to be wanted, however," he said. Financial experts and governors of the Community's central banks were given two months to draft other suggestions for cementing economic and monetary cooperation.

These will be discussed by the heads of government at their Milan meeting in June.

The summit will try to identify new areas of cooperation ahead of the entry of Spain and Portugal next year, diplomats said.

The President of the European Commission, M. Jacques Delors, told reporters: "I am quite satisfied with the results. We are moving again."

He is a strong advocate of monetary unity to help the 10-nation group compete with the United States and Japan and to fight its unemployment of 13.5 million.

With economic growth rates lagging compared with Japan and the US, and the future of the dollar uncertain, the ministers seemed more open to M. Delors' ideas, adding that governments had started to think about ways of removing

obstacles to development of the system.

These include Britain's opposition to becoming a full member of the EMS, West Germany's ban on domestic use of the ECU, the special status of the Italian lira, and controls on capital movements in Italy and France.

But diplomats said prospects for a drive to strengthen the EMS were better than ever, with talks in London on full membership gaining momentum and France and Italy seeming willing to give up capital controls as part of a package deal.

President Mitterrand, of France, has said he plans a big initiative to promote European unity, which diplomats said could involve concessions to promote a stronger monetary system.

But plans to create a central bank for the Community and to

turn the ECU into an international reserve currency alongside the dollar and the yen still seem unlikely to materialize.

The agreement on extending the use of the ECU was in a three-point package, John Earle writes from Rome.

Central banks of EMS countries will be authorized to intervene on foreign exchange markets for stabilization purposes. Hitherto this has been allowed only when currencies were reaching a critical point near the limit of their oscillation band.

The official interest rate of the ECU will be determined on the basis of market interest rates, and no longer by a weighted average of member countries' discount rates.

Capital banks of non-Community countries will be able to hold ECU's in their reserves.

## IN BRIEF

### PSBR 'too optimistic'

The Chancellor's assumptions on public spending are "quite ridiculous" and he will probably miss his £7 billion public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) target by about £1.5 billion in 1985-86, according to the stockbroker, Grieve-Son Grant. The broker also suggests there will be little scope for significant tax cuts in 1986-87.

The stockbroker says in its April *Economic and Fiscal Review* that the spending assumptions underlying the PSBR target are excessively optimistic. Grieve-Son also raises doubts about the Government's revenue from the North Sea because of the rise in sterling against the dollar, and warns the Chancellor against yielding to fiscal expansion by relaxing the PSBR in order to finance tax cuts.

### McDonnell deal

China is to manufacture for internal sale between 25 and 40 McDonnell Douglas Corporation MD-80 passenger aircraft under a co-operative production agreement, the Shanghai newspaper, *Ming Pao*, said. The contract involves an estimated \$600 million. McDonnell Douglas will transfer technology for the 140 or 150-seat aircraft to be made at the Shanghai Aviation Industry Corporation plant.

The number of Japanese corporate bankruptcies fell again in March, but business failures in fiscal 1984 ending last month, reached the highest level since the war. According to a credit research agency, 1,680 companies went bankrupt in March, down 12.8 per cent compared with last year.

### On target

National Savings contributed £290.4 million net to government funding in March, achieved by a small margin the target of £3 billion in the 1984-85 financial year. The provisional total for 1984-85 is put at £3,096 billion. The Government has set an unchanged target of £3 billion for National Savings this year.

### German output

West German industrial output growth is expected to reach 3.7 per cent this year but fall to 1.5 per cent in 1986 according to a survey of 166 companies. Exports will again provide the greatest impetus to growth this year.

### US satellite system needs \$18m for lift-off

By Robert Temple

An American company is seeking \$18 million (£14.4 million) to install a satellite system which could revolutionize communications, navigation and transport.

About \$7 million has already been raised in the private sector for Geostar Corporation's system which will become operational in the US early next year, with a service for Europe in place possibly by the end of 1987.

The system uses hand-held "transceivers", powered by ordinary pencil batteries, which will enable subscribers to send and receive messages, emergency requests for help, and precise details of their whereabouts within a fraction of a second.

They can also establish their locations, accurate to within one metre, their direction and velocity, whether on land, at sea or in the air.

An announcement on the system, which has no government involvement, will be made later today in America.

The first space components will go into orbit early in 1986, as part of a "G-Star" satellite launched by the French Ariane rocket. Extension to Europe would require further satellite launches.

Geostar is the brainchild of American physicist expert, Professor Gerard K. O'Neill of Princeton, who is also President of Geostar Corporation and the Space Studies Institute. He has refined the technology of Geostar that it can now operate by "back-packing" its space components on other people's satellites. Geostar has signed a full business agreement for 10 years with General Telephone & Electronics, America's second biggest telephone company, to launch its space components.

The first satellite elements will be completed by R. C. A. Astro-Electronics by September 9, and integrated by November into a G.T.E. satellite.

Estimates of the final cost of the full Geostar project have been about \$300 million, but today's announcement will reveal this has been cut to an estimated \$60 million.

This does not count the cost of mass manufacture of hand-held "transceivers", which would eventually cost about \$450.

### CHI to protest at Banro defence

By Peter Wilson-Smith  
Banking Correspondent

City disquiet over the increasingly aggressive tactics used in contested takeovers is likely to be fuelled by the latest developments in CHI Industrial's battle for control of Banro, the sunroof and car component maker.

Over the weekend both Ford and Talbot Motor Cars publicly dissociated themselves from a Banro defence document which suggested they would be unhappy if Banro was taken over by CHI.

Banro, which is being advised by the merchant bank, Hill Samuel & Co. supplies them with components. Last week Mr Edward Rose, the chairman, sent a hard-hitting letter to shareholders quoting extracts of letters from Ford, Talbot and also Toshiba under the headline, "Banro's customers do not support CHI".

In a statement yesterday Ford said it was always concerned if there was a change of control of a supplier, but "there is no suggestion we could not work with CHI as new owners".

Mr Gordon Kennedy, Talbot's director of purchasing, said: "I am most unhappy with the misleading juxtaposition of my letter with the banner headline in Banro's documents



Edward Rose: letter upset customers

which implied that Talbot Motor Cars could not work happily with CHI".

Kleinwort, Benson, advising CHI, described the document as misleading and unfortunate, and will be making a formal complaint to the Takeover Panel today.

CHI's £6.2 million bid for Banro closed on Wednesday and the outcome may be close. CHI owns 13.6 per cent, and one big shareholder, Stewart Fund Managers, with 13.1 per cent, has agreed to accept in the absence of a higher offer.

However Banro's directors hold 7.3 per cent and Mr Geoffrey Bate, former chairman of Banro, and his family control 18.5 per cent.

### Plantation group to go public

By Michael Prest  
Financial Correspondent

The first plantation company to be offered to the public since 1928 is being launched on Wednesday. Anglo-Eastern will seek \$7.5 million (£6 million) to finance the development of new rubber, cocoa and palm oil plantations in Sumatra.

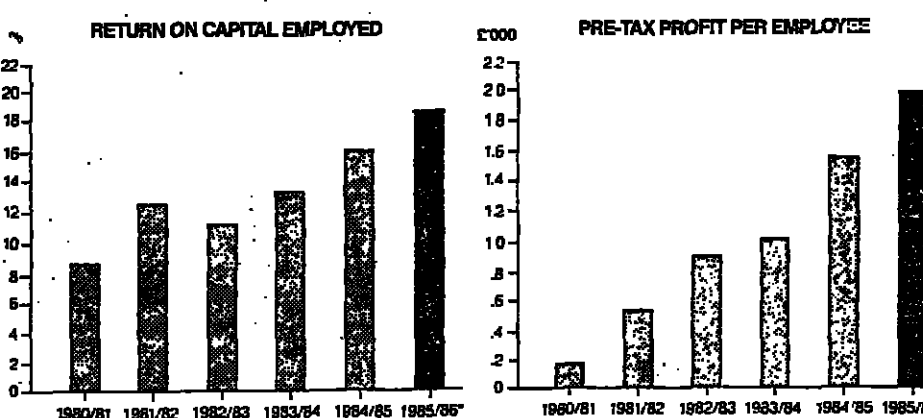
The company's first chairman is likely to be Mr Michael Nightingale. Anglo-Eastern will be formed from assets previously controlled by four other companies: Anglo-Indonesian Corporation, Plantation & General Investments, REA Holdings and its controlling company International Investment Trust Company of Jersey.

These companies will transfer to Anglo-Indonesian more than 3,000 hectares of developed and plantable land at Blankahan, Rambung and Sungai Musang. The new company will receive a 6,000 hectare concession in Tasik Province. It hopes for 19,000 hectares in the neighbouring Riau province.

In return the four companies will receive between 60 and 70 per cent of Anglo-Eastern, depending on how the issue is priced on Wednesday. The value of the transferred assets is put by N M Rothschild, Anglo-Eastern's advisers, at £3.65 million.

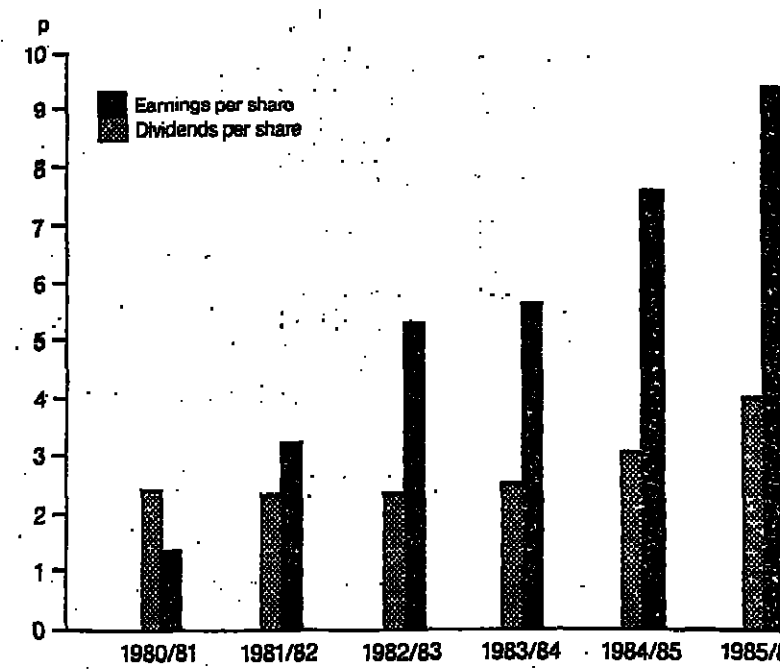
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## Why Shareholders Should Stick with Tootal



\*Forecast not less than

### GROWING EARNINGS AND DIVIDENDS PER SHARE



Cover: 0.8x

1.4x

2.3x

2.3x

2.4x

2.3x\*\*

\*Forecast not less than

\*\*Based on forecast earnings and dividend per share

Tootal Group

Our names

add up to strength

Stick with us

Each Director of Tootal Group plc (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) has taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and the opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate. Each of the Directors accepts responsibility accordingly.

### Trade plea by Tebbit to Japanese

By John Lawless

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry will this week tell the Japanese Government that it should set an example to its industrialists by making a significant increase in the number of imports included in its own public procurement programme.

During his visit to Tokyo he will suggest that both aerospace and defence are sectors where imports could be considerably increased right away, thereby lessening the growing trade friction between Japan and its Western partners.

Such a message marks a discreet by significant change in emphasis in the trade dialogue. It is understood that Western nations have become so frustrated at trying to achieve an across-the-board increase in their exports that they are now prepared to point out product sectors for the Japanese Government's benefit - reversing the way in which Japan initially established its own export boom by taking a "rifle shot" approach with certain industries in terms of overseas sales.

Mr Tebbit's visit is being regarded by the Japanese as highly significant. They regard him as an "EEC ambassador".

Britain's has one of the worst trade deficits with Japan of any trading nation. It has a lower per cent of Japanese manufacturing investment than its main competitors in Western Europe - about half as much.

### 17% of small firms use micros

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

One in six small businesses now own a microcomputer and those numbers will swell substantially this year - possibly matching the record sales of last year - while the competition to supply that sector will intensify to an unprecedented level.

The predictions are contained in a report by Gowling, Marketing Services of Liverpool. The researchers found that by the end of last year 17 per cent of small businesses had at least one microcomputer - about 177,000 businesses.

The study says: "Sales for 1985 look set to equal the record sales for 1984 but the

actual value of retail sales of hardware could fall below last year's level of £100 million. "Pressure to maintain volume will mean that manufacturers will operate competitive pricing policies and one consequence will be the withdrawal of some manufacturers' models from the market place. The top 10 manufacturers now account for three-quarters of sales of micros to this business sector.

The study also shows that the average number of micros owned by each business is now two - a 30 per cent increase in two years. According to Gowling, these findings indicate that

the businesses are beginning to appreciate the value of the technology for small businesses.

The survey was conducted among 2,000 small businesses in January. It indicates that the small businesses will also be active this year buying peripherals (other equipment needed to enhance the computers' functions), computer programs to improve the range of his computer, training courses and consultancy.

The main applications still continue to be general book-keeping, financial modelling and word processing.

### MARKET SUMMARY

#### STOCK MARKETS

Friday's close and change on week  
FT Ind Gnd ..... 576.8 (+5.3)  
FT-A All Share ..... 614.73 (+0.78)  
FT Govt Securities ..... 61.4 (+0.64)  
FT-SE 100 ..... 1,225.8 (-2.7)  
Bergsman USM ..... 28,099  
Datastream USM ..... 110.82 (-2.03)  
New York  
Dow Jones ..... 1,255.58 (+5.63)  
Tokyo  
Nikkei Dow ..... 12,588.01 (-39.09)  
Hong Kong  
Hang Seng ..... 1,492.18 (+20.83)

#### GOLD

London fixing:  
an \$381.25 pm \$329.90  
close \$328.76-\$329.25 (283-285.50)  
New York  
Comex \$328.00

#### BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interim: Barry Trust, Britair Group, Close Bros, Glaxo, Highland Distilleries, Rand Mines

Group (quarterly figures), Scottish Metropolitan Property, Finales: Anglo American Investment Trust, Atlantic Computer Systems, Fortnum and Mason, Johnson and Mason, Johnson and Jorgensen Packing, Lamont Holdings, NMW Computers, Pentland Industries, Plasmeo, Rugby Portland Cement, William Sindall, Travis and Arnold.

TOMORROW - Interim: J. Hepworth and Son, Highland Electronic, Share Drug Stores, Stewart Naim, Swindon Private Hospital, Finales: Boscay and Hewkes, Boscay and Hewkes Holdings, C. D. Bramall, Walter Duncan and Goodricks, Emess Lighting, First Charlotte Assets Trust, Falcon Industries, Juliana's Holdings, MCD Group, Owners Abroad Group, Octopus Publishing, Austin Reed, Savoy Hotel, Scarvo, Southampton, IOW Steam Packet, Steel Bros, Taylor Woodrow, WW Group.

WEDNESDAY - Interim: Adwest, Kilmarnock, Wm Low and Co, Flair APV Holdings, Astbury and Madeley, British Printing and Communication Corp, British

Mohair Holdings, Brixton Estate, Brook Street Bureau, John Crowther Group, Elam, Finlay Packaging, Fogarty, Gowdon Warren Control Systems, Grobell Group, Matthews Hall, Northern Engineering, Owen Owen, RMC Group, RTZ, Sun Life Assurance, Telephone Rentals, Toys and Co, United Parrels.

THURSDAY - Interim: Aberdeen Trust, Audio Fidelity, Free State and Geduld Mines, McKennie Bros, Orange Free State Group, President Brand Gold Mining, President Brand Gold Mining, SI Group, Transvaal Group, Gold Mining, Welkom Gold Mining, Western Holdings, Finales: Benford Concrete Machinery, Bentalls, Betec, Horace Cory, East Rand Gold and Uranium, Elbar Industrial, Hambro Life Assurance, Harle Queensway, Laporta Industries, Scottish Mortgage and Trust, Securities of Scotland, Ward White Group.

FRIDAY - Interim: Gable House Properties, Wm Low and Co, Flair APV Holdings, Astbury and Madeley, British Printing and Communication Corp, British







TEMPUS

# Gilts: Bank anger through the fog

Square Mile business life is like grand opera - but with the curtain down. Only bumps and bulges in the curtain indicate the fisticuffs taking place on stage.

But the authorities are not completely heartless. A retrospective libretto is provided, namely the Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin.

Sometimes the text is dull because markets have been calm. Occasionally a note of triumph peals through the Latin prose. Often the Bulletin is just memorable.

The current issue, dealing with the great sterling crisis of the New Year, falls into the final tragic gory. A novice could unambiguously code the message: the Bank was not happy with the conduct of policy.

Again and again, the Bank comes back to the disruptive impact on markets of the British Telecom flotation. The £M3 figures were seriously, though unquantifiably, distorted by the large cash flows associated with the BT flotation.

This weakened earlier market confidence that the domestic monetary and fiscal situation was under adequate control, the Bank writes.

All the monetary aggregates were distorted by the side-effects of the sale. Gilt market sentiment was unsettled and more vulnerable to adverse developments of all kinds.

The authorities faced other problems over the same period,

notably the impact on public spending trends, and hence gilt market sentiment, of the miners' strike.

The Bank spells out remorselessly the year-end destruction to the public sector figures. Local authorities over-spent. Central government exceeded its targets. So too did the nationalized industries.

Gross debt interest payments were £1 billion higher than forecast.

The picture of gathering chaos was heightened elsewhere. Mysteriously, the industrial sector kept on borrowing, with a consequent impact on the aggregates even though company profits were rising.

The personal sector was also credit-happy, its inclination to boost gearing fuelled no doubt by the scramble for business between the banks and the building societies.

Finally for all sorts of reasons, but mainly because of concern about falling oil prices, sterling came under heavy selling pressure. The Bank is venomous in its condemnation of "conflicting press reports on the Government's attitude to the exchange rate" around this period.

As the statistical fog created by the BT issue lifted, it became clear that the underlying picture had been transformed.

Both components of domestic credit were strongly expansionary, sterling was slumping everywhere.

authorities concluded that some rise in domestic interest rates was necessary. But did the Bank err by looking at the wrong indicators during December and January? Or are its comments about these other gauges disingenuous?

MLR reappeared for a day and rates shot up from 9% per cent to 14 per cent. The authorities just managed to hold on to the situation at those crisis levels.

Without the higher rates gilt yields might well have risen out of sight. The sense of crisis was so strong at one stage that the market was closed for 45 minutes and when dealings resumed prices were 4½ points down.

In the event the Bank contained the situation well. Over the period as a whole, short yields rose by a point to 11½ per cent, and long yields by ½ per cent to 11 per cent.

But the yield curve changed shape quite radically describing a sharply backward sloping configuration at the higher level. This reflected the short term squeeze on interest rates.

With hindsight it is clear that the Bank kept its nerve and stuck to traditionally reassuring methods of intervention. The gilt sale and repurchase facilities with the clearing banks have been done before.

Note 10 to the Bulletin reveals the Bank negotiating almost on a daily basis with the banks. This tactic provided the

money markets with a cash cushion and helped to peg the gilt market to some underlying yield level.

To mark the conceptual bottom of the market, the traditional long tap arrived. £800 million of Exchequer 10½ per cent 2005, and as the Bank remarks in magnificent understatement, the issue was greeted calmly.

The issue of a long tap - a theoretical infringement of current political taboos - was notable for two reasons. That the Bank was determined to hang on to a yield structure around the 12 per cent market was underlined by its refusal to issue fresh stock when the market turned sharply on January 28 when rates advanced to 14 per cent.

At the time the Government Broker was criticized for failing to exploit the turn in market sentiment and sell stock.

The structure of the funding programme also altered radically after the new long tap. Up to and including January 14, the Government Broker had issued four new pieces of stock. This was about par for the course.

The average volume of new gilt issues in the first quarter of

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## Norscot Hotels Plc

(Registered in Scotland - No. 24759)

### Share capital

Authorised	Issued and now being issued and fully paid
£3,500,000	£2,860,000
£1,000,000	£ 587,600
£4,500,000	£3,447,600

Ordinary shares of 50p each  
5.6 per cent. Cumulative Redeemable Preference shares 1890 of £1 each

Placing by  
**Hambros Bank Limited**  
of 1,800,000 Ordinary shares of 50p each at 113p per share

Application has been made for the grant of permission to deal in the Unlisted Securities Market on The Stock Exchange in the above-mentioned Ordinary shares. It is emphasised that no application has been made for the above-mentioned securities to be admitted to listing. The Ordinary shares have been offered to and are available through the market. Particulars of the Company are available in the External Unlisted Securities Market Service and copies of such particulars may be obtained during usual business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and Public Holidays excepted) up to and including 25th April, 1985 from:

**Hambros Bank Limited**, 41 Bishopsgate, London EC2P 2AA  
**L. Messel & Co.**, 1 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2QE  
**Stirling Hendry & Co.**, 16 Royal Exchange Square, Glasgow G1 3AD

### ORDINARY SHARES

## Fun and games as oil heads down the slippery slope

The surge in oil share prices during January and February has duly given way to a nervous sideways waddle as worries about the spot price and the dollar have begun to dominate investors' thinking.

This year promises to provide the setting for a long and lively debate about the future of the pound/dollar exchange rate, a debate which will affect the fortunes of companies in sectors ranging far beyond oil.

The outlook for the oil price is, however, more certain - and less happy. Short of the analysis which states that demand for oil is in long-term decline from which there can be no return, both the fragility of the world economy and our increasing

portfolios slumped into a tidier form. Once that has been accepted, the consequent uncertainty ensures that the desired mergers will take place - if not necessarily in quite the way that those involved would like.

Thus Tricentrol, an aggressive explorer led by the idiosyncratic Mr James Longcroft, has suddenly found itself at the vortex of a whirlpool of rumours that it is going to be taken over.

It has to be said that there is a strong school of thought among the stockbroking fraternity, notably Wood Mackenzie, that no such thing will occur. In particular, there is profound scepticism that any bid will come from Enterprise Oil, despite the fact that Enterprise appears to have just under 5 per cent of Tricentrol's shares and is headed by the energetic Mr Graham Hearn, an ex-Tricentrol man.

An alternative theory is that Enterprise is holding these shares as a trading counter in its own convoluted game of cat-and-mouse with RTZ. The obvious defensive play would be for Tricentrol to buy someone else first, and it may be interested in acquiring Carless Capel's 11 per cent of Premier. It is becoming a most demurring game.

Above the heat of battle stands Trafalgar House, which is already firmly committed to North Sea Oil and has in Sir Nigel Brookes a master strategist who has publicly stated that he is looking to expand by acquisition.

The business of spotting the likely bid victims is as exciting but as unpredictable as trying to guess which of the sector is going to come up with the next oil strike. For those who want cast-iron dividend income with



Graham Hearn: playing cat-and-mouse

ability to get by on less energy make it hard to envisage the oil price keeping pace with inflation in the foreseeable future.

But, as the Wytch Farm decision on Friday demonstrated, it is still possible to have fun in oil stocks. The honest burghers on the sub-committee of the Dorset County Council decided to give planning permission for appraisal wells to be drilled on Furzey Island in the middle of Poole Harbour.

That decision is still subject to the lobbying of the environmentalists, but the shares of the companies involved showed how hungry the sector is for a good story.

British Petroleum, the daddy of the consortium, was understandably little affected. Wytch Farm is after all, but a tiny element in its global panorama. But Carless Capel rose 8p to 151p. Premier gained 7½p to 54p and Tricentrol picked up 6p from its low point on the day to end at 256p. Clyde, which is embroiled in its epic struggle over Petrolex, was alone among the Wytch consortium marked down, 2p to 91p.

Some of that activity, both in Clyde and others, owed more than a little to the takeover fever which is gripping the second-liners among the oil companies. The auction over Petrolex is but a symptom and may be a bellwether for some of the others to follow.

At root, the feeling has taken hold that the sector is ripe for rationalization and consolidation. The system of awarding North Sea exploration licences had the effect of creating oil companies.

That was all very well, as a means of attracting new capital to what has proved to be a pivotal part of the British economy in the past decade. The losers in the licence rounds simply vanished or went back to what they had been doing before. The winners went on to stock market status and the backing of a bevy of institutional funds.

### James Longcroft: may want Carless stake in Premier

the backing of good management, the current nervousness over oil prices and the dollar may give an excellent opportunity to invest.

Among the two majors with UK bases, the analysis view is that BP is to be preferred to Shell. At 535p, it yields no less than 8 per cent. De Zee and Bevan, the broker, picks out BP's "robust refining businesses" and its rising profit per barrel as virtues which should be able to overcome the prospect of stagnant production volume.

Enterprise is one North Sea stock which has undergone a transformation in the eyes of the City. Derided when it was privatized by the Government, its shares are on a rising trend, but still offer a yield of 5.5 per cent at 207p. Much, though, rests on Mr Hearn's ability to pick his way through the takeover options.

William Kay  
City Editor

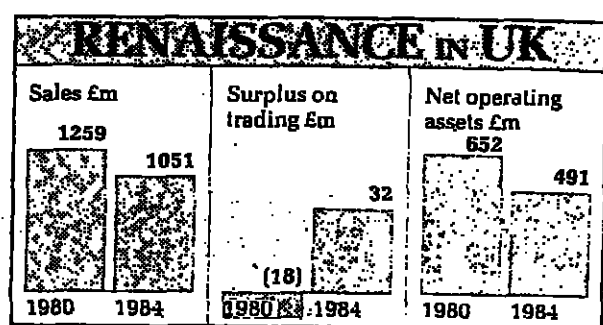
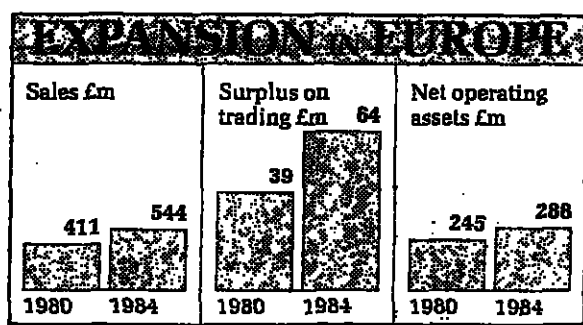
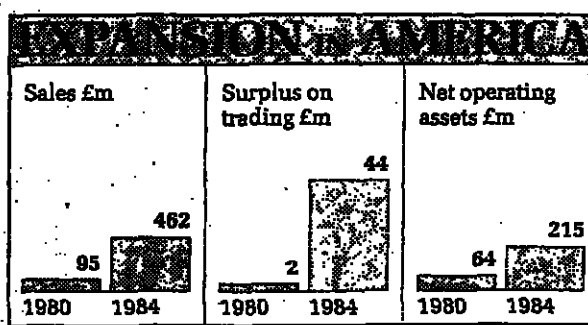
# "A world leader in innovation and development"

## Extracts from the Foreword to the 1984 Annual Report and Accounts by Sir Trevor Holdsworth, Chairman.

Driven both by unfavourable economic forces and our own strategic necessity, the first half of the Eighties has been a period of quite exceptional change for GKN and we look back on these years to provide an assessment of some of the major changes that have taken place.

The strategic necessity arose from the diminution of the customer base in the United Kingdom, the need to develop products of enhanced technology, the attraction of participating in the growing services markets of developed economies and the opportunity to expand our mainstream activities internationally.

GKN has been transformed from a business with the crude designation of a "Midlands metal-basher" into a world leader in innovation and development of sophisticated new engineering products and in the use of the most advanced technology in design and production.



## A NEW SURGE FORWARD

In any business with as long a history as GKN, there will almost certainly have been a number of periods of reformation and renaissance preceding a new surge forward. I believe that 1980/84 will prove to have been such a period.

The financial performance for 1984 demonstrates further substantial progress in the Group's re-orientation: a 36% improvement in the profit before tax, a 38% increase in earnings of the year and a 23% addition to earnings per share are three of the more significant indicators.

Trevor Holdsworth

## RESULTS IN BRIEF

	1984 £m	1983 £m
Sales	2,160.6	1,974.5
Pre-tax Profit	120.2	88.1
Earnings	48.5	35.0
Dividends	24.2	19.8
Earnings per share	21.4p	17.4p

GKN - the international automotive and engineering group

Further detailed information on the reformation and renaissance of GKN is available in the Report and Accounts 1984. If you would like to receive a copy please write to: Guest Keen and Nettlefolds plc, GPR Dept, 7 Cleveland Row, London SW1A 1DB. Tel: 01-930 2424. Telex: 24911.



## Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Price Friday	Change on Friday	Over- all Div. P/E
1	W. W. Group	100	10	10
2	Simpson (S)	100	10	10
3	Woolworth	100	10	10
4	Debenhams (L)	100	10	10
5	Radcliff	100	10	10
6	Mark & Spencer	100	10	10
7	Antony & Vella	100	10	10
8	Formanster	100	10	10
9	Peters Stores	100	10	10
10	Aquarium 'A'	100	10	10
11	Breweries	100	10	10
12	Morland	100	10	10
13	Row	100	10	10
14	Highland Dist	100	10	10
15	Donkington	100	10	10
16	W. W. & D	100	10	10
17	Greenland Wholes	100	10	10
18	Yates	100	10	10
19	Harley & Harrow	100	10	10
20	Building & Roads	100	10	10
21	Brant	100	10	10
22	Yarnac	100	10	10
23	Reliance	100	10	10
24	Whitbread	100	10	10
25	Conant	100	10	10
26	Amalgamated	100	10	10
27	British Overseas	100	10	10
28	British Airways	100	10	10
29	British Airways	100	10	10
30	British Airways	100	10	10
31	British Airways	100	10	10
32	British Airways	100	10	10
33	British Airways	100	10	10
34	British Airways	100	10	10
35	British Airways	100	10	10
36	British Airways	100	10	10
37	British Airways	100	10	10
38	British Airways	100	10	10
39	British Airways	100	10	10
40	British Airways	100	10	10

Weekly Dividend  
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY

## BRITISH FUNDS

Start	Stock	Price	Change	Div	Over- all Div. P/E
1954	100	100	10	10	10

## SHORTS Under Five Years

1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500	2501	2502	2503	2504	2505	2506	2507	2508	2509	2510	2511	2512	2513	2514	2515	2516	2517	2518	2519	2520	2521	2522	2523	2524	2525	2526	2527	2528	2529	2530	2531	2532	2533	2534	2535	2536	2537	2538	2539	2540	2541	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	2547	2548	2549	2550	2551	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562	2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570	2571	2572	2573	2574	2575	2576	2577	2578	2579	2580	2581	2582	2583	2584	2585	2586	2587	2588	2589	2590	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597	2598	2599	2600	2601	2602	2603	2604	2605	2606	2607	2608	2609	2610	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625	2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639	2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	2647	2648	2649	2650	2651	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656	2657	2658	2659	2660	2661	2662	2663	2664	2665	2666	2667	2668	2669	2670	2671	2672	2673	2674	2675	2676	2677	2678	2679	2680	2681	2682	2683	2684	2685	2686	2687	2688	2689	2690	2691	2692	2693	2694	2695	2696	2697	2698	2699	2700	2701	2702	2703	2704	2705	2706	2707	2708	2709	2710	2711	2712	2713	2714	2715	2716	2717	2718	2719	2720	2721	2722	2723	2724	2725	2726	2727	2728	2729	2730	2731	2732	2733	2734	2735	2736	2737	2738	2739	2740	2741	2742	2743	2744	2745	2746	2747	2748	2749	2750	2751	2752	2753	2754	2755	2756	2757	2758	2759	2760	2761	2762	2763	2764	2765	2766	2767	2768	2769	2770	2771	2772	2773	2774	2775	2776	2777	2778	2779	2780	2781	2782	2783	2784	2785	2786	2787	2788	2789	2790	2791	2792	2793	2794	2795	2796	2797	2798	2799	2800	2801	2802	2803	2804	2805	2806	2807	2808	2809	2810	2811	2812	2813	2814	2815	2816	2817	2818	2819	2820	2821	2822	2823	2824	2825	2826	2827	2828	2829	2830	2831	2832	2833	2834	2835	2836	2837	2838	2839	2840	2841	2842	2843	2844	2845	2846	2847	2848	2849	2850	2851	2852	2853	2854	2855	2856	2857	2858	2859	2860	2861	2862	2863	2864	2865	2866	2867	2868	2869	2870	2871	2872	2873	2874	2875	2876	2877	2878	2879	2880	2881	2882	2883	2884	2885	2886	2887	2888	2889	2890	2891	2892	2893	2894	2895	2896	2897	2898	2899	2900	2901	2902	2903	2904	2905	2906	2907	2908	2909	2910	2911	2912	2913	2914	2915	2916	2917	2918	2919	2920	2921	2922	2923	2924	2925	2926	2927	2928	2929	2930	2931	2932	2933	2934	2935	2936	2937	2938	2939	2940	2941	2942	2943	2944	2945	2946	2947	2948	2949	2950	2951	2952	2953	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## EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

01-837 1326 and 01-837 3774

### Director of Technical Education and Vocational Training Lesotho

The Director will be responsible to the Permanent Secretary for the overall administration and control of the department together with the implementation of Government policy and objectives in relation to technical/vocational education and training.

Other duties involve acting as Secretary to the Technical and Vocational Training Board, supervising Training Officers and co-ordinating the activities of training institutions in relation to the application of training schemes. The successful candidate will be responsible for the recruitment, selection and supervision of staff in connection with technical/vocational education and training, will also be responsible for the recruitment, selection and supervision of staff in connection with technical/vocational education and training.

Applicants should be Lesotho citizens, aged 40-45, educated to degree level, and have a sound background in technical education, preferably in a major engineering field. Five years experience in the administration of technical/vocational training at a national level together with sound knowledge of the technical/vocational training system of Lesotho is also desirable. It is also desirable that the candidate should have experience in the management of technical/vocational education and training.

Salary (UK scale) in the range £22,000 to £26,000 per annum, plus allowances. The successful candidate will be responsible for the recruitment, selection and supervision of staff in connection with technical/vocational education and training.

The post is wholly financed by the British Government under bilateral agreement with Lesotho. The successful candidate will be responsible for the recruitment, selection and supervision of staff in connection with technical/vocational education and training.

Other benefits include pension, housing, family allowances, medical and dental services. The successful candidate will be responsible for the recruitment, selection and supervision of staff in connection with technical/vocational education and training.

For full details and application form, please apply to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Lesotho, P.O. Box 100, Maseru, South Africa. The successful candidate will be responsible for the recruitment, selection and supervision of staff in connection with technical/vocational education and training.

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## The low profile of high tech

Barrie Sherman looks to a darker future for jobs in the computer industry

How many computers do you have, and who uses them? asked a man with a small boy in tow. "About twenty in three rooms and everyone gets a go," replied the boy.

"Does that include the girls?" asked a woman suspiciously and the head teacher vigorously replied that it did.

This little exchange must have been repeated thousands of times last year, as anxious parents went off to view the secondary schools to which their children would be moving. No doubt it will be the same this year.

The interesting point is that the question and answer reflected a trend which continues to make us think that if computers had not been there the school would have been failing its pupils.

No-one asked what the children would do with the computers, or how long they would spend on them, or whether they were reserved for computer science exam takers in the main. The mere fact that they were there was sufficient to reassure parents and probably the head teacher and most of the staff as well.

That there has been a "hype" of computers and "new technology" is quite clear. In 1982, the government-sponsored Information Technology Awareness Year played its part in this movement, as have the technological television programmes, the technological pages of quality newspapers and politicians of all parties.

It is reasonably certain that computers will be an important factor in industrialised societies, perhaps even the most important, through the threat because of the technological advances possible and the changes within organisations and systems.

Some jobs have already almost disappeared from the computer industry in the short space of time that it has been in existence. Punch-card operators are becoming extinct and the number of operators is falling.

As visual display units and voice output become more common and the keyboard can input directly from a keyboard, or with touchpads, so the need for paper handling, tape or disc changing as a separate job diminishes.

Of course there will always be the need for paper printouts, but these are now made at the terminal where they are needed, except in the case of the very large installations.

Computer operators are the most numerous of jobs in the industry and are regarded, often erroneously, as a stepping stone to better things. As they are also the most female-oriented of computer jobs, the need for severe losses of jobs for women, men in this instance. This is not true of programmers.

It may seem premature to think about unemployed programmers when nearly all the reports by governments suggest that there is a global shortage of programmers. Estimates in Britain vary, but 10,000 is a figure banded around to show the extent of the shortage.

This figure must be viewed in a rather sceptical light. It is certainly not reflected in either the salaries or the incomes in salaries during the past three years when compared with other groups of employees. The lists of advertisements for programmers show there is no shortage of posts. How long will this last?

The new systems coming into the large organisations which employ programmers are tending to be oriented to the end-user. This is the manager of the engineer salesman etc. and programming is done with them indeed by them "on-line". The old system of program design and coding is disappearing.

This change requires not so much fewer programmers as different ones, generally younger and more adventurous. However, the growth in personal or cheap microcomputers has given the "off-the-shelf" program a considerable boost at the workplace as well as at home.

By the early 1990s the large commercial, industrial, defence, government and academic computer installations will be employing far fewer people.

### Most categories are in some danger

1980s and 1990s. Whether there will be as many jobs associated with them as we are being led to believe is quite another matter. It is quite possible that the number of jobs directly associated with computers has already passed its peak in the western industrialised countries, although there will be jobs in associated computer-based systems and services.

However, many of the new associated jobs will not need the knowledge of computers as a skill any more than a telephoneist has to know how a switchboard works in detail. While parents continue to display computerphobia, the state of the art has changed and is still changing.

There are several types of jobs directly associated with computers. People make them and the components that go into them, others sell them and others service them. The larger installations, those put in place in the 1960s and 1970s, have a large number of people making them work, and the consultants and software houses employ many others. Finally, there are the self-employed and the outworkers.

Most, if not all, of these categories of jobs are under some degree of threat because of the technological advances possible and the changes within organisations and systems.

Some jobs have already almost disappeared from the computer industry in the short space of time that it has been in existence. Punch-card operators are becoming extinct and the number of operators is falling.

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By the early 1990s the large commercial, industrial, defence, government and academic computer installations will be employing far fewer people.

### Data processors will be the new scribes

And inexperienced users lead to extra service work but as the expertise of both makers and users improves, and the machinery becomes first self-diagnosing, and then self-correcting, the need for conventional engineers falls away.

However, companies such as Xerox, which are training apprentices in both hardware and software engineering are almost certainly on the right lines as far as future jobs are concerned.

The software houses, consultants and software engineers will be the job providers of the future in computing. Programmers, analysts, designers, engineers, and some people with general computer knowledge with an ability to think laterally will get jobs.

Another area of job creativity will be in database maintenance, but the largest new area will be for those people who use the computer literacy to help the non-literate to find their way through data processing. These will be both in companies and among self-employed offering their services to small companies and personal computer users alike. They will be the scribes of the modern era.

Don't be fooled - it is not light years away. It is well within that head teacher's lifetime.

## SCOTTISH EXAMINATION BOARD MARKERS

SCE 1985 EXAMINATION

Applications are invited for appointment as Markers at the 1985 Scottish Certificate of Education examinations in the following subjects:

- Accounting
- Art and Design
- Biology
- Classics
- Craft and Design
- English
- French
- History
- Italian
- Mathematics
- Modern Studies
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Science
- Spanish
- Woodwork
- Geography

Applicants should have appropriate qualifications and experience in the subject concerned. Persons who have acted as Markers in these subjects at the 1984 examination or who have already acted as Markers in these subjects at the 1985 examination are not eligible for appointment. The successful candidate will be responsible for the recruitment, selection and supervision of staff in connection with technical/vocational education and training.

Application forms, which should be returned to the Board by 25 April 1985, are available from the Scottish Examination Board, 100, The Quadrant, Edinburgh, Scotland. Tel: 011 222 1111. Fax: 011 222 1111. The successful candidate will be responsible for the recruitment, selection and supervision of staff in connection with technical/vocational education and training.

Closing date: 15 May 1985. The successful candidate will be responsible for the recruitment, selection and supervision of staff in connection with technical/vocational education and training.

For further details and application form, please apply to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Lesotho, P.O. Box 100, Maseru, South Africa. The successful candidate will be responsible for the recruitment, selection and supervision of staff in connection with technical/vocational education and training.

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## PREP AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

01-837 1326 and 01-837 3774

### ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL HEADSHIP

The Governors of St. Paul's School invite applications for the above post for September 1986 following the retirement of the High Master, Mr J. W. Hele.

Details of the post and method of application may be obtained from the Clerk to the Governors of St. Paul's School, Mercers' Hall, Ironmonger Lane, London, EC2V 8HE.

Applications should be sent to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Lesotho, P.O. Box 100, Maseru, South Africa. The successful candidate will be responsible for the recruitment, selection and supervision of staff in connection with technical/vocational education and training.

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# PERSONAL COLUMNS

01-837 2104 and 01-278 9232

## HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

As a direct result of the recent closure of various travel agencies, we have decided to offer a special discount on our services. This discount is available to all our clients who have booked a holiday with us between 1st January and 31st March 1985. The discount is 10% on the total cost of the holiday, excluding flights and taxes. This offer is valid until 31st May 1985. Please contact us immediately to take advantage of this offer.

### HUGE FLIGHT DISCOUNTS "NEMO REPENTE FUIT TURPISIMUS"

TORONTO ★ VANCOUVER ★ CANADA ★ USA ★  
★ SYDNEY ★ MELBOURNE ★ PERTH ★ HAWAII ★  
★ JOHNSBURG ★ DURBAN ★ S. AFRICA ★ NAIROBI ★  
★ FAR EAST ★ MIDDLE EAST ★ AFRICA ★ AUSTRALIA ★  
★ April 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30 ★  
★ May 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26 ★  
★ June 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26 ★  
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